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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1523)

Name of Candidate	AAKRITI SETHI		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	104195
Center	ONLINE	Date	13/3/2021

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
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8	10	
9	10	
10	10	
11	15	
12	15	
13	15	
14	15	
15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न–पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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1. Enumerate the issues associated with functioning of the Central Information Commission. How can these issues be addressed? (150 words) 10

केंद्रीय सूचना आयोग की कार्य प्रणाली से संबद्ध मुद्दों को सूचीबद्ध कीजिए। इन मुद्दों का कैसे समाधान किया जा सकता है?

Central Information Commission is a statutory body consisting 1 Chief Information commissioner and not more than 10 information commissioners.

Issues associated with functioning of CIC

1. Shortage of staff : The Central Information commission's chief post is vacant for a long time and ~~most~~ almost 50% of the state Information commissions are working without a chief.

2. Not a constitutional body : Information to be provided has to have authority over the constitutional bodies → Not taken seriously.

3. Lack of autonomy on terms & salary of Information Commissioners as amended recently by the Central govt.

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The control of central govt on the Term and salaries may result in non-disclosure of the ~~great~~ information.

4. Various exemptions under Section 8 of the RTI Act and official secrets Act → Not in true spirit

5. Huge pendency of cases in CIC ~~and~~

Steps to address the issues

- → Give the constitutional status to the CIC
- → The tenure & conditions of the Chief Information Commission and other Information commissioners should be fixed
- → More autonomy and independence to CIC
- → Recruitment on the vacant vacancies can fast track the pending cases resolution

The Right to Information can be achieved in its true spirit only when the institutions like CIC and SIC are working effectively & efficiently.

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2. In India, Governor's discretionary powers are wider than those of the President. Elaborate. (150 words) 10

भारत में, राज्यपाल की विवेकाधीन शक्तियाँ राष्ट्रपति की तुलना में अधिक व्यापक हैं। सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए।

Governor is the head of the state just like President is the head of the country.
Article 163 of the constitution gives the governor discretionary powers as follows:

Constitutional Discretion of Governor:

1. The governor has the discretion on the bills for the reservation of the President.

2. The governor acts on his own discretion when he has additional charge of other UT.

3. On his discretion, he can recommend to the President on the implementation of the President's rule in the state.

Situational Discretion of the Governor

1. The governor can dismiss any ruling party when it loses majority

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in the ~~gove~~ house.

2. He can appoint a CM first and then ask him to prove his majority on the floor.

3. He can ask for a vote when no-confidence motion is moved against the government.

Thus governor has wide discretionary powers but the President has only the situational discretion and no constitutional discretion.

i.e President has discretion only when the situation demands but no implied discretion.

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3. Highlight the objectives that were sought to be achieved through tribunals. How successful have they been in meeting them? (150 words) 10
उन उद्देश्यों को रेखांकित कीजिए जिन्हें अधिकरणों के माध्यम से प्राप्त करने का प्रयास किया गया था। वे उन्हें पूर्ण करने में कितने सफल रहे हैं?

Tribunals were constitutionally recognised after the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976.

Articles 323A and 323B were inserted in the constitution by which the Parliament became authorized to constitute tribunals to adjudicate the administrative and other tribunals for matters specific therein.

Objectives of Tribunals:

(i) Tribunals have the judges who are expert to adjudicate on the specific matters
↳ Efficient redressal

(ii) As they are to be for specific purposes → faster redressal of grievances → Timely adjudication

iii) To take out the administrative cases out of the high courts and

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relieve their burden.

(iv) They hear the cases based on the natural justice → situation wise hearing and personal touch.

Success of the Tribunals :

1) Huge pendency of the cases are there.

2) Right to appeal to High Court again fills the high court with such cases → Double burden and lengthy process

3) Lack of infrastructure and funds to constitute Tribunals

4) Lack of autonomy in the functioning of the tribunal

Way Forward

1) Proper funds and autonomy to be given

2) Expert judges to be appointed only after a cooling off period

3) High Courts can have separate boards to review the decisions of tribunals

Holistic reforms are needed to make the tribunals more effective.

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4. Instead of the government regulating Over-the-top (OTT) platforms, there have been calls for a self-regulating mechanism for such platforms, as in the case of print media. Discuss. **(150 words) 10**

सरकार द्वारा ओवर-द-टॉप (ओ.टी.टी.) प्लेटफॉर्म्स को विनियमित करने के स्थान पर, ऐसे प्लेटफॉर्म्स के लिए एक स्व-विनियमन तंत्र हेतु आह्वान किया गया है, जैसे कि प्रिंट मीडिया के मामले में किया गया है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Over-The-Top (OTT) platforms are the media platforms which are providing content and entertainment to the people directly.

COVID has increased the use of such OTT platforms.

Concerns on govt. regulating the OTT platforms:

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5. Bring out the arguments surrounding the issue of some states reserving jobs for locals in the private sector. (150 words) 10

कुछ राज्यों द्वारा निजी क्षेत्रक में नौकरियों को स्थानीय लोगों के लिए आरक्षित किए जाने से संबंधित मुद्दे के चतुर्दिक तर्कों को स्पष्ट कीजिए।

The recent case of Haryana reserving the jobs paying less than ₹50,000 to the domiciled citizens of Haryana in the private enterprise.

Arguments for such Reservation

1. Guarantee of jobs for the locals → in tune with son of soil movement
2. Reduces migration out of Haryana → cultural strengthening.
3. Local dialect speaking people can be more efficient
4. Addresses unemployment
5. Strengthens unity and integrity of nation

Arguments against such reservation

1) Employer perspective:
   a) Lack of resource pool
   b) Even the people not meeting the job criteria will have to be recruited → Reduces efficiency.

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c) The private sector may move out of the state to escape from such reservation.

2. Citizens view:
a) Against the Right to profession under Article 19 of the constitution
b) Discriminatory only for the low job workers while the higher skilled workers can find job anywhere in India.

3. Society view:
a) Cultural homogenization
↳ Increase alienation against other state citizens

4. Governments view:
a) Shifting of the burden of providing employment to the private sector.

Reservation of jobs in the private sector is not a solution but increasing the skills, employment opportunities and multi sectoral development is the key to growth & development.

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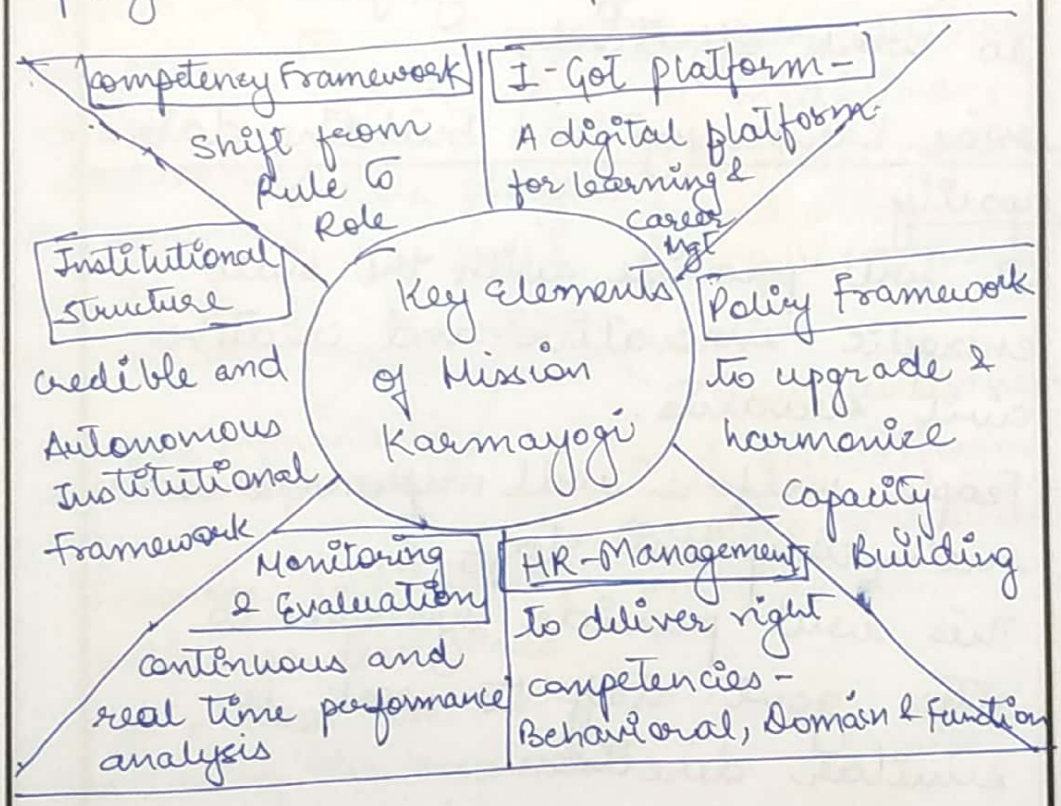
6. Identifying the key elements of Mission Karmayogi, briefly explain how it can lead to holistic development of the human resources and state's capacity. **(150 words) 10**

मिशन कर्मयोगी के प्रमुख तत्वों की पहचान करते हुए, संक्षेप में स्पष्ट कीजिए कि इससे मानव संसाधन और राज्य की क्षमता का समग्र विकास कैसे हो सकता है।

Mission Karmayogi is a capacity building program of the civil servants to make the civil servants participative, energetic, innovative, tech-enabled, progressive and transparent.



Mission Karmayogi and Holistic Development of Human Resources:

1) It will build the capacities which

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will enhance the competencies of civil servant.

2) continuous evaluation will provide feedback to evaluate and assess themselves and keep on learning

3) An online platform for raising the grievances or for any solution will improve the efficiency of civil servants to work effectively.

Mission Karmayogi and building state's capacity

1. It will provide with the state energetic, innovative and creative civil servants.
2. People welfare will improved with such competent staff
3. This will provide synergies to other govt. staff to work in similar direction.

Mission Karmayogi will holistically develop our civil servants and will Transform the Bureaucracy from Red Tape to Red Carpet.

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7. Highlighting the role played by ASHA workers in public health system of India, discuss the challenges faced by them. (150 words) 10

भारत की सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली में आशा कार्यकर्ताओं द्वारा निभाई गई भूमिका को रेखांकित करते हुए, उनके द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली चुनौतियों की विवेचना कीजिए।

ASHA are the Accredited Social Health activists who work as an intermediary between the citizens and the health institutions.

Role played by ASHA workers

- Spread information on the various schemes of the government and their efficient use
- Provide the door to door delivery of medicines, sanitary napkins and other required things
- Universal immunication programs → Implementation
- Give awareness and education on diseases, sanitation practices etc
- Promote institutional deliveries and thus has a huge role in reducing the maternal mortality ratio

Despite playing a huge role in improving the rural health of the society, they have been facing many.

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challenges as discussed below:

1) low salary/honorarium paid to the ASHA workers → funding issues
2) Work as daily workers and no security of jobs
3) Lack of skills and training of the ASHA workers to provide better healthcare facilities
4) Protests against them during CORONA pandemic
5) Lack of institutional infrastructure → on field jobs → do not have basic facilities like toilets to use.

Way forward:

1) Improve the salary and introduce some performance based rewards to incentivise them.
2) Proper skills and training to deal with the psychological mindset of people.
3) Infrastructural facilities can be improved.

ASHAs are innovative solution to India's healthcare problems. They must be strengthened to be 100% efficient.

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8. While internationalisation of higher education has many potential benefits for India, certain challenges will need to be addressed in this regard. Discuss. **(150 words) 10**

यद्यपि उच्चतर शिक्षा के अंतर्राष्ट्रीयकरण के भारत के लिए कई संभावित लाभ हैं, तथापि इस संबंध में कुछ चुनौतियों का समाधान करने की आवश्यकता होगी। चर्चा कीजिए।

India has very few institutes or universities in the top 100 institutes of the world. This ~~show~~ is sad in comparison to the china which has large number of institutions of higher education in top 100 list.

Internationalization of higher education means that the standards, curriculum, facilities etc are of such level that match the global standards.

Benefits of internationalization of higher education

1. Global image will improve
2. More admissions to the foreign nationals → Increase in foreign exchange earnings.
3. This will also reduce the Brain Drain from India and will benefit the India's research

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and development.

4. International funds can be secured for maintainence of big institutes.
5. Improve in educational standards and skills of India's youth
   ↳ Reap the demographic dividend

Challenges that needs to be addressed

1. Infrastructure deficit
   ↳ Funds shortage to provide worldclass facilities
2. Shortage of faculty as better professors leave to abroad to pursue their research careers.
3. Regulatory issues of UGC → lack of autonomy.

Government efforts

1. National Institute Ranking Framework (NIRF)
2. Mentoring of the aspirant universities
3. VAIRA scheme
4. 1000cr. → fund
5. Institute of Eminence

Government is taking reformative steps to reform UGC, NEP, funds etc. A more integrated approach with PPP or autonomous institutions can position Indian institutes globally

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9. India needs to adopt a more pragmatic stance in the context of the ongoing intra-Afghan talks. Discuss, in the light of India's engagement with Afghanistan. (150 words) 10

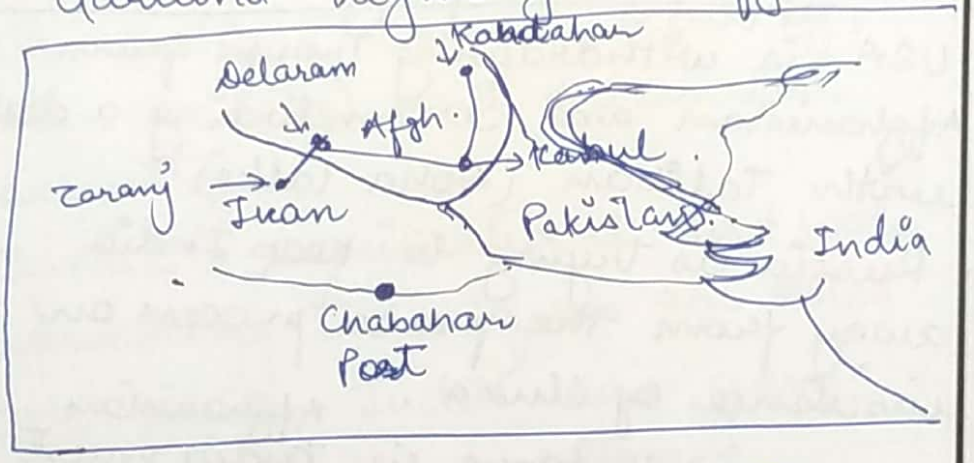
भारत को वर्तमान में जारी अंतरा-अफगान वार्ताओं के संदर्भ में अधिक व्यावहारिक रुख अपनाने की आवश्यकता है। अफगानिस्तान के साथ भारत के जुड़ाव के आलोक में चर्चा कीजिए।

The ongoing talks and the peace process of Afghanistan is the centre stage for global repurcussions.

India's engagement with Afghanistan:

1. Infrastructure development in Afghanistan

(i) The construction of the zarang-Delaram road and the Garland highway in Afghanistan



(ii) Salma Dam in Afghanistan

iii) Construction of Parliament Building

(iv) Building of a library in Afghanistan

v) Building a cricket stadium in Kandahar

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2. Chabahar port construction in Iran to send relief measures to Afghanistan
   - A first wheat shipment has been made from this route
3. Open sky policy with Afghanistan

Apart from all these capacity building initiatives of India in Afghanistan, India has consistently recognised the elected government and maintained that ~~no~~ peace process should be Afghan led.

Need of a more pragmatic stance

1. USA is withdrawing troops from Afghanistan and is concluding a deal with Taliban (Doha Talks)
2. Russia is trying to keep India away from the peace process on insistence of China.

Any peace dialogue in ~~India~~ Afghanistan must include India as India has all the interest in that. However India can now think of engaging with all the stakeholders to be an active participant of the peace process.

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10. In the geo-strategic context of West Asia, the recent efforts to normalise relations between Israel and UAE may open new possibilities for India. Analyse. (150 words) 10

पश्चिम एशिया के भू-रणनीतिक संदर्भ में, इजरायल और यू.ए.ई. के मध्य संबंधों को सामान्य बनाने के लिए हाल ही में किए गए प्रयासों से भारत हेतु नई संभावनाएं उत्पन्न हो सकती हैं। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

The recently signed peace accord between UAE and ISRAEL is a step towards achieving more stability and peace in the volatile West Asia.

India's interests in west Asia

1. Largest expatriates of India are in West asia.
2. West Asia plays a greater role in India's energy security, (oil, gas etc) and financial security.
3. Israel's agricultural and water harvesting techniques are ones on which India can gain technological competence
4. Long drawn stand of India in a peace process in Israel-Palestine is commendable.

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5. New partnerships can happen in fields like cybersecurity, defence etc.

6. It can also be a connectivity route to Europe and Russia

India needs to use its strategic alliances with different countries to draw a plan for itself that can be of larger interest to all.

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11. It is not only the content of election manifestos but also the past performance with respect to promises made in election manifestos that need to be regulated. Discuss. (250 words) 15

केवल चुनावी घोषणा-पत्रों की विषयवस्तु को ही नहीं, बल्कि चुनावी घोषणा-पत्रों में किए गए वादों से संबंधित विगत निष्पादन को भी विनियमित किए जाने की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Election manifesto is a document released by the political parties and filed to the Election commission while filing nominations. It contains the policy issues, agenda and the priority areas of work of the party contesting the elections.

Issues with the election manifestos:

1) Contains the promises which may increase the communal disharmony
   Eg: Promise of Hindu Rashtra
2) It includes certain irrational decisions to convince the honest people
   Eg: Transferring of 5 lakh ₹ to every account.
3) It may be against the constitutional values of equality, liberty and freedom.
4) Populist policies like farm loan

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waivers are included in each one's manifestos.

Need for regulating the manifestos

1. Populist policies-not achievable	2. Once elected, no one talks about promises
4. Social welfare is subordinated to vote bank politics	3. Democracy is not upheld if people's demands are not met

However the current manifestos need to be regulated but also the past manifestos must be assessed on the performance, how much work has been done on the points on which the people elected the party, the check on whether such promises are again been done in the present manifestos.

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Way forward

→ Election commission must have the power to regulate the party manifestos.

→ Opposition must always assess the performance of the govt on the promises made on the manifestos

→ Public discussions must take place to discuss the performance of such promises made.

→ Right to recall can be given to the people to recall the representative who has not fulfilled the promises made.

A better check on the government by the EC, opposition and people will force the government to work for the welfare of the people

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12. In order to achieve a reduction in the pendency of cases and a return to the Supreme Court's original role as a final appellate court, setting up of a National Court of Appeal is the need of the hour. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**
लंबित वादों की संख्या में कमी लाने और उच्चतम न्यायालय को अंतिम अपीलीय न्यायालय के रूप में उसकी मूल भूमिका में पुनः स्थापित करने के लिए, एक राष्ट्रीय अपील न्यायालय स्थापित करना समय की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Supreme Court alone has a pendency of around 60,000 cases which are huge and the average time taken to solve a dispute is around 3.5 years.

Reasons for such huge pendency

1. Expansion of the role of the supreme court due to the provision of the special leave Petition and Public interest litigation.
2. Every case exhaust all the available appelate provisions
3. Cases against centre government which is a major litigant.
4. Constitution cases
5. Populist cases → where decision is based on consensus but it take years to have that
   Eg: Ayodhya Ram Mandir Case

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Need for National Court of Appeal

There have been demands to separate the Supreme Court into two branches. One is to decide on the matters of constitutional importance and the other is a national Court of Appeal

1. This will give an expert cadre who is expert in the matters of appeal and expert in constitutional matters → faster disposal of cases

2. The various benches of court of appeal will benefit the people by improving the accessibility to supreme Court

3. This will uphold the role of the Supreme Court as a constitutional court → decisions on such cases will have faster redressal → concentrate on only fundamental questions of national importance

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Certain issues remain:

1. If the NCA decisions are still not satisfying, people will demand redressal by supreme court at constitutional level.
2. The powers of the Chief Justice will reduce as a master of roster
3. The decision remain pending by ~~various~~ a number of years as SC itself is reluctant to do that.

Keeping in mind the huge pendency and ~~the~~ to uphold the fabric of supreme court, it is mindful to form a national court of appeal after addressing all the concerns of judges and other stake holders.

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13. The Constitution of India reflects an amalgamation of spirit of Indian freedom struggle and various administrative provisions of different acts of British rule in India. Explain. (250 words) 15

भारत का संविधान भारतीय स्वतंत्रता संघर्ष की भावना और भारत में ब्रिटिश शासन के विभिन्न अधिनियमों के अनेक प्रशासनिक प्रावधानों के मिश्रण को दर्शाता है। व्याख्या कीजिए।

The constitution of India is not a document being drafted in some years. It has taken the long drawn freedom struggle and various acts of the British government to draft a constitution in its present form.

Inspired from the freedom struggle

1. Democracy : It was during the freedom struggle that a consensus was developed that Indian polity would be a democracy and not monarchy.

2. Secular state : As India was an amalgamation of various religion, Gandhi many times suggested for a secular state.

3. Socialist state : Since 1930's socialism became philosophy of Indian National Congress.

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4. Universal Adult Franchise : Right to vote to every person irrespective of caste, color, gender, creed were adopted.

5. Fundamental Rights : Right to equality, Right to freedom, Right to education etc were some rights adopted by INC in the Karachi session in 1929

6. Linguistic reorganisation was also a trend since the Nagpur session of INC in 1920.

Constitution inspired by various Acts

1. Federalism and Bicameral system was adopted from the Montagu-Chelmsford reforms of 1919.

2. A ministerial form of government was adopted based on various Charter Acts especially that on 1861.

3. The Two lists of legislation was given by GoI Act of 1935. (Schedule 7)

4. Ordinance power, emergency provisions

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are also taken from the GoI Act 1935

5. The objectives resolution of 1946 of J.L Nehru encouraged the implementation of Preamble.

6. The instrument of instructions to the state in 1935 Act form the basis of Directive ~~Policies~~ Principles of State Policies (DPSPs)

Thus Indian constitution is an amalgamation of the provisions of various acts and the freedom struggle. Along with that India also adopted various other provisions from the constitutions of various other countries to make Indian constitution more inclusive, broad based and welfaristic.

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14. Mention the key components of the SVAMITVA scheme. Also, highlight its intended benefits and discuss the potential issues in its implementation. (250 words) 15

स्वामित्व (SVAMITVA) योजना के प्रमुख अवयवों का उल्लेख कीजिए। साथ ही, इसके अपेक्षित लाभों को रेखांकित कीजिए तथा इसके कार्यान्वयन में संभावित मुद्दों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

The Survey of villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas (SVAMITVA) scheme is a central sector scheme of Ministry of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj.

Key components of the scheme:

1. It will map the land parcels of the villages so that villagers can use their land as a financial asset.
2. The scheme is valid for 4 years from 2020 - 2024. The exercise will involve mapping of entire Indian villages but in Phases.
3. It will use the drone technology to identify the land areas and any disputed properties

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Benefits of the SVAMITVA scheme:

1. Benefits to the people:

(i) It will identify their land parcels as financial assets

(ii) Ease of getting loans on their property and for buying selling purpose

(iii) Land disputes can be sorted

2. Benefits to the Government:

(i) It will provide the data to make effective gram panchayat plans

(ii) Help in streamlining the planning and revenue collection.

iii) Survey maps can be created that can be used by any department requiring such information.

iv) Reduce legal cases.

3. Benefits to other stakeholders

(i) Banks will feel easy to lend

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loans as they would be able to identify the land claims.

(ii) Judiciaries burden will be reduced.

Potential issues in its implementation

1. The fragmented land and low operational holdings makes the land planning in India difficult.
2. Non availability of digital records to assign the land parcels to its respective owner.
3. Varied topography and relief features makes the use of Technology difficult in such terrains Eg. Himachal, North-Eastern areas etc.

The integrated approach in convergence of all the ministries related to land must come together and digitization of land records must precede such assessment to make the scheme a success.

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15. Sharing of information among all stakeholders in government functioning is a leading practice towards good governance. Discuss with examples. (250 words) 15

सरकारी कार्यप्रणाली में सभी हितधारकों के मध्य सूचना को साझा करना सुशासन के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण परिपाटी है। उदाहरणों के साथ चर्चा कीजिए।

Good governance is when the government, civil society and private sector come together to provide the services which are in the social interest of all.

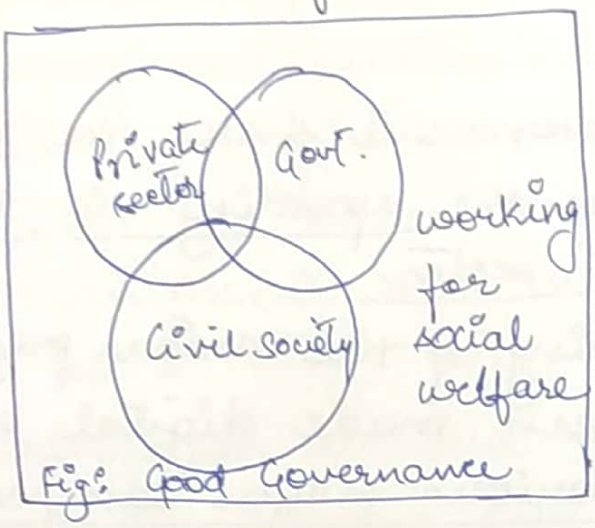

Fig: Good Governance

Information sharing and good governance

1. Information sharing with Civil society

(i) Transparency is one of the feature of the good governance.

ii) It provides with information through which people can hold the government accountable

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Eg. Citizen Charter

iii) It helps in citizens empowerment

Eg: Right to Information Act

(iv) Interface between citizens and government to raise grievances

Eg: Darpan portal for NGOs.

2. Information sharing with private sector

(i) The government shares the budget to raise the spending via the private sector

(ii) Auctioning of the various projects have been made digital so that various players can participate

iii) Single window clearances facilitate the Ease of Doing Business.

3. Information sharing within departments

(i) This reduces the double work of the departments.

(ii) Checks and balances on inter departments

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(iii) Proper planning and implementation of the projects and schemes.

iv) Fund management → Public ~~Fund~~ Debt Management System (PDMS) also strengthens the cooperative federalism

v) Decision making from bottom to top is facilitated

A transparent government is the foundation for good governance. Government has taken very steps to be transparent and treat citizen as a king. But to attain transparency in its true sense we need to reform our institutions (like CIC, CVC) etc and also reform the government processes along with awareness of citizens

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16. India has an oversized and bloated government which acts as a drag on economic efficiency and growth. Critically evaluate. (250 words) 15

भारत में आवश्यकता से अधिक आकार और अतिशय दायित्वों को वहन करने वाली सरकार है, जो आर्थिक दक्षता एवं वृद्धि के संबंध में एक अवरोध के रूप में कार्य करती है। समालोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

India's democracy is the largest democracy of the world which is governing the world's second largest population

India as an example of oversized government:

(i) Three tiers of government
Centre, State and Panchayati Raj
Only India has 3rd Tier as constitutional provision.

(ii) 545 + 245 ⇒ almost 900 members of parliament with too many as ministers
- Council
- Cabinet
- Minister of incharge State

(iii) More than 50 ministries with their own various departments

(iv) In Burucracy we have All India

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Services, Central Services, State Services and state level officers of various grades.

v) Gram ~~panchayat~~/sabha as a governing body includes all the eligible voters of that village.

Bloated government:

(i) The oversized departments performing each work separately
Eg water comes under water ministry, agriculture etc.

(ii) Too much hierarchy of officials in the govt departments.

However keeping the size of India's population, the number of representatives are still less.

(i) The seats in the Parliament have not been increased since 1971 due to acts passed in 1976 and 2002 which froze the seats in the parliament since 2026.

ii) This gives rise to disparity in

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representation as the population have increased tremendously since then

Steps that need to be taken

People	Processes
There is a need to increase the number of seats in parliament	But there is a need to simplify the processes of government system working
The participation of people should be encouraged at the local level	The process has to be easy for the local people to participate
Women participation to be increased to be equal to men.	Rationalization of bureaucracy and reduction of red tape

Need ~~to~~ is to restructure and reform the government and bureaucracy to make it more effective and people centric.

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17. Though the National Digital Health Mission is a step in the right direction for both patients and the healthcare system, concerns around data privacy need to be addressed. Examine. (250 words) 15

यद्यपि राष्ट्रीय डिजिटल स्वास्थ्य मिशन रोगियों और स्वास्थ्य देखभाल प्रणाली, दोनों के लिए उचित दिशा में उठाया गया एक कदम है, तथापि डेटा गोपनीयता से जुड़ी चिंताओं का समाधान किए जाने की आवश्यकता है। परीक्षण कीजिए।

National Digital Health Mission is to digitise the health infrastructure of the country by giving the health IDs to the patients and digitise the health records of every patient.

Benefits to the patient:

1. The records of the patients will be available digitally so that anytime care can be made possible for the person.

2. Continuity of health treatment will be made possible

3. Through Telemedicines the accessibility and availability of the doctors can be improved.

4. The health will further improve

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the socio economic parameters and this will increase the economic growth.

Benefits to the healthcare system:

1. The doctor - patient ratio can be improved via telemedicine
2. Seamless portability of health benefits
3. Cooperative federalism will be strengthened ~~both~~ as both centre & states cooperate on health matters
4. The private players will be included in the sector that will also improve the quality of the healthcare services.

As the National digital health mission will include open source of information which can be accessed by anyone with the consent of the patient.

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Privacy issues :

1) The information of the patients can be used for vested interests
2) These may include some misusing ~~for~~ by the family for personal interests and for property.
3) lack of data protection law.

The policy or mission is step towards the universal health coverage and towards achieving the sustainable development goal 4. The need is to have regulated data protection law and increase the awareness of the people.

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18. One Nation One Ration card has the potential to significantly transform the lives of migrant workers in India. Analyse. (250 words) 15
वन नेशन वन राशन कार्ड में भारत में प्रवासी श्रमिकों के जीवन को महत्वपूर्ण रूप से रूपांतरित करने की क्षमता है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Covid-19 has attracted the attention of the policy makers towards the plight of migrant workers. Globalization has led to the movement of the people to the jobs disrupting the social fabric of the Indian society.

One Nation One Ration Card scheme tends to centralize the public distribution system in India and the workers/any person can get the benefits of ration card anywhere in the country.

Benefits of One Nation One Ration Card

1. It will help in portability of benefits from one place to other
2. It will also ensure food security as well as nutritional security
3. The expenses of the migrants on

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ration will be reduced which will help save them for future

4) It will ensure Ease of living and a step towards effective governance

5) It will also help in tracking down of the ghost beneficiaries and prevention of leakages.

6) Domino effect on healthcare and better lifestyle.

Certain challenges that still needs to be cleared

1) Linking of Aadhar with the PDS shops → Mismatching of the biometrics

- Case study: A women starved to death due to non-availability of food as her biometrics did not match with the system

2) Non-digitization of the data by some states.

3) Challenges of TPDS and inclusion-

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exclusion error.

4) The integration of various states on the same portal is a challenging task.

To ensure the success of One Nation One Ration Card scheme, there needs to be

(i) Digitization of the records
(ii) A central portal
(iii) states political will
(iv) Awareness of the beneficiaries

It will be in the interest of the migrants and in the interest of the nation.

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19. The World Trade Organization is buffeted by multiple challenges which have eroded the credibility of the organization. Analyse. **(250 words) 15**
विश्व व्यापार संगठन कई चुनौतियों से ग्रस्त है, जिसने संगठन की विश्वसनीयता को समाप्त कर दिया है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

WTO was formed after the Uruguay round talks which transformed the GATT to WTO. It is to established the rules based trade and order in the world.

challenges facing the WTO:

1. Consensus building is taking time
Agriculture → discussions of Doha round have not yet been concluded

2. New areas like e-commerce, Investment are the areas of interest of developed countries and they are forcing to include talks on such issues.

3. The bound tariffs and aggregate measure of support (AMS) has foundational problems- It is based on the subsidies provided

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in the years 1985-86. Too many years have passed and inflation rates have become so high that AMS are not commensurate with the contemporary level.

↳ Developed countries are benefitting.

4. The Dispute settlement Body is not been constituted as US is interfering with the appointments and restricting any appointment.

As dispute settlement is vetoed by US → it has become defunct

5. Trade in services: Mode-4 service trade that includes the movement of professionals is out of the ambit of WTO

6. Trade wars between US-China and WTO remaining quite.

Keeping in consideration all the above facts, it is being visible that

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WTO is loosing its credibility. However it is still relevant as it has a say in setting of tariff by the nation etc

Way forward

1) Restructuring of WTO and formation of Dispute settlement Body.
2. More autonomy and penal powers to WTO.
3. Consensus based approach and developing countries interests must be undertaken

India must continue leading the group of G77 developing countries to fight for their interest and also make the maximum use of the regional trade agreements

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20. BIMSTEC is indispensable for India's efforts in promoting regional cooperation and integration in the neighbourhood. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**
बिम्सटेक (BIMSTEC) पड़ोस में क्षेत्रीय सहयोग और एकीकरण को बढ़ावा देने की दिशा में किए जाने वाले भारत के प्रयासों हेतु अपरिहार्य है। चर्चा कीजिए।

BIMSTEC is the economic and technological cooperation grouping of south Asian and South East Asian countries

Members of BIMSTEC

Importance of BIMSTEC to India

1. An important platform for India's Act East policy
   - ↳ Trade links with Myanmar-Thailand and North-Eastern states
   - ↳ Cultural cooperation with the links between kinsmen and families of N-E states
2. Link between ASEAN and India

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3. Alternative to the defunct SAARC regional grouping.
4. India as a major player in the grouping.
5. India's strategic interests in the region and to counter the Chinesese Influence (Belt and Road initiative)
6. Combined GDP of 2.7 trillion $
7. It is also in convergence with the India's policies of
   - SAGAR = Net security enabler
   - Blue Economy
   - Maritime security
8. Importante sea lanes of communication → Indian ocean and Malacca strait
9. Mutual solution for the illegal migration issue and crossborder illegal activities.

However the BIMSTEC does not

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have annual summits, poor road and rail connectivity.

The efforts like Kathmandu Declaration must be enhanced to make the grouping more visible and be an active player in global dynamics.

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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1699)

Name of Candidate	Aakriti Sethi		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	104195
Center	ONLINE	Date	11/2/2021

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
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14	15	
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16	15	
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18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न–पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

1. The practice of passing of bills without the scrutiny by the parliamentary standing committees undermines their significance and sets a wrong precedent. Discuss. (150 words) 10

संसदीय स्थायी समितियों द्वारा संवीक्षा के बिना विधेयकों को पारित करने की परिपाटी, उनके महत्व को क्षीण करती है तथा गलत दृष्टांत स्थापित करती है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Parliamentary Standing committees are an important part of the Parliament as it ensures the checks and balances on the discretionary power of the executive.

Importance of Parliamentary Standing Committees (PSCs)

→ Expert opinion and a proper discussion on a bill.
↳ Room for discussion and assessing the benefits of the bills along with advising on certain concerns.

→ Helps in building consensus
eg: The Transgenders Bill

→ Check on the executives thus ensuring the separation of powers along with collective responsibility

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However the certain instances of overriding the PSC and passing of the bills without much discussion is a cause of concern.

The data suggests that only around 14% of the bills followed the route of PSC while in 2020, not a single bill was referred to the PSC.

Impact of such bypassing of PSCs:

1) Lack of Trust between the people and government → undermines the social contract

2) Agitations and agressions on different bills in different parts of the country → stalling project and loss to exchequer.
   Eg: NRC protests and Farm law bills.

3) Anti-state attitude and international rapport damages.

There should be made a compulsory provision of use of PSCs to ensure dissent is taken care of

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2. The right to recall is a much-needed step to deepen democracy in India. Critically discuss. (150 words) 10

भारत में लोकतंत्र को सुदृढ़ करने हेतु 'राइट टू रिकॉल' एक अत्यंत आवश्यक कदम है। आलोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए।

Right to recall is a method through which the electorate has the power to call back the elected representative if he/she has failed to fulfill his/her duties after being elected.

Need of the power to Recall

1) It upholds the concept the concept as mentioned in the Preamble that the source of power is the People in a democracy.

2) Increases the accountability of the elected representatives towards the voters.

3) ~~Inc~~ Strengthens the social Contract

4) Promotes the welfare of the people and thus ensure social justice

5) Reduces vote bank politics and populist policies for the same.

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6) Further strengthens the essence of democracy.

However Right to recall is not a tool in the hands of the people to be used anytime they want to. If it not used properly it can lead to political instability, lack of trust of investors which hinges on the political stability and thus will bring in anarchy.

Steps to strengthen the democracy

Broader reforms are necessary to strengthen the democracy which should include:

- Political Reforms
  - Criminalization of politics
  - Politics on secular lines
- Electoral Reforms
  - Strengthening the Election Commission
  - Proper use of Social Media
- Legal Reforms
  - Impartial and quick judicial redressal

Multiperspective reforms is the need of the hour.

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3. Is anti-defection law a restriction on the freedom of choice of legislators? Examine and also highlight the role played by the Speaker in this regard. (150 words) 10

क्या दल-बदल रोधी क़ानून विधि-निर्माताओं (लेजिस्लेटर्स) की 'चयन की स्वतंत्रता' पर एक प्रतिबंध है? परीक्षण कीजिए और साथ ही इस संदर्भ में,अध्यक्ष द्वारा निभाई जाने वाली भूमिका को रेखांकित कीजिए।

Schedule 10 in the Indian Constitution relates to the Anti-defection law.
It includes that in circumstances where the individualy elected person joins any party or a member of a party voluntarily resigns from the party or abstains from voting as such etc is said to be defected.

Anti-defection law and restriction on freedom of speech:

1) The law ensures that the party members abide by the directions of party whip and thus stand united in passing any law or defeating any law.

2) ~~Critics say that it is against~~
Also it ensures that the decorum

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of the house is maintained and a situation like Aaya Ram, Gaya Ram do not happen again.

However the critics say that it is against the freedom of speech as the members are always under the fear of being defected.

But the members have enough situations (like question hour, zero hour etc) to bring in the debates and healthy discussions and raise their voice. Articles 105 also ensure their freedom of speech guaranteed by Individual privileges.

Role of the speaker:

→ Speaker has the discretionary power to decide on defection motions → acting as a quasi judicial body.

→ In some instances this power has been misused.

Thus efforts should be made to institutionalise the process and curb the discretion of the speaker.

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4. Inter-state river water disputes have been among the most pressing issues faced by the Indian federal system. In this context, examine the potential of the Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2019 in addressing the issues involved. (150 words) 10

अंतर-राज्यीय नदी जल विवाद, भारतीय संघीय प्रणाली द्वारा सामना किए जाने वाले सर्वाधिक अहम मुद्दों में से एक रहा है। इस संदर्भ में, इसमें सम्मिलित मुद्दों के समाधान में अंतर-राज्यीय नदी जल विवाद (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2019 की क्षमता का परीक्षण कीजिए।

India is a water scarce country with some of the metro cities like Chennai will be water deficient in a couple of years. Thus water and interstate rivers have been the most important challenge.

The constitution as per Article 262 provides for a River Tribunal ~~be~~ to be setup by the Central government if the states are not able to solve the disputes amicably.

Current issues with the Tribunals:

→ On the discretion of the Central government and on adhoc basis → thus temporary and no permanent accountability

→ No Time bound redressal

→ Often Supreme Court has to intervene

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→ No River Boards Management Committees formed
→ States do not follow the award

Provisions of New Amendment Bill:

→ It will set up a body which will try to settle the disputes amicably.
→ Permanent Tribunal with multiple benches for all round redressal
→ Time bound redressal with in four and a half years.
→ River Boards Management Committee to look into the awards and development of river basins
→ Data Management

River disputes like Krishna water disputes, Kavery dispute have been pending for decades. The amendments made have the intent to fast track the process by institutional and other changes. However water should be used sustainably to also achieve SDG-6.

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5. The expressions 'equality before the law' and 'equal protection of the laws' may seem to be identical, but, in fact, they mean different things. Elaborate. (150 words) 10

'विधि के समक्ष समता' और 'विधियों का समान संरक्षण' वाक्यांश एक-समान प्रतीत हो सकते हैं, किन्तु, वास्तव में, उनके अर्थ भिन्न-भिन्न हैं। सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए।

Equality before law is a British concept whereas the Equal Protection of law is an American concept. Article-14 of Indian constitution guarantees to all the citizens and foreigners, this right to Equality.

Some similarities of both:

→ Both guarantees the Right to Equality

→ Everyone is equal in front of law and thereby guarantees the Rule of law.

However there is a difference between both the concepts as is discussed below:

1) Equality before law:

* It is a negative concept

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* i.e no person is above law
* No person is discriminated against the law or treated unequally.

2) Equal Protection of Law:
* It is a positive concept
* Every person in same circumstances is treated equally in front of law
* This implies that different provisions can be made for similarly situated persons
Eg: Disabled have some special rights.

Thus both have certain similarities and differences but the essence is the same and Indian constitution makers understood the relevance of both and thus both are included in our constitution under Article 14.

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6. Idea of the Civil Services Board has been widely hailed as a key civil services reform, however it is not without its own limitation. Comment.

(150 words) 10

एक महत्वपूर्ण सिविल सेवा सुधार के रूप में सिविल सेवा बोर्ड के विचार का व्यापक रूप से समर्थन किया गया है, हालांकि इसकी भी अपनी सीमाएँ हैं। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

Civil services Boards are appointed by the state governments to look into the entry level recruitment and subsequent job promotions below the rank of Joint secretary.

It looks into the cases of fixed tenure of atleast two years for cadre officers.

Benefits of Civil services Board

→ It will ensure a minimum tenure → ↓ uncertainty as the officials are on the discretion of the state to be transferred

Eg: Ashok Khemka sir transferred 58 times in 28 years of service

→ Officers will feel safe and thus ethical conduct will be promoted rather than political consensus.

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→ Better delivery of public service and increased efficiency of Bureaucracy.

Concerns involved:

→ It may create functional and administrative problems
- as the officials will get a freehand till their fixed tenure

→ Lack of effective implementation of the decision of the board

Therefore efforts to made for cooperative and coordinated working of the bureaucrats and political officials. A strong relationship is the foundation of an effective bureaucracy.

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7. It is argued that the introduction of compulsory voting in India would strengthen its democratic credentials. Critically analyze. (150 words) 10
यह तर्क दिया जाता है कि भारत में अनिवार्य मतदान की शुरुआत से इसकी लोकतांत्रिक साख सुदृढ़ होगी। समालोचनात्मक विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Right to vote is a constitutional right as guaranteed by Articles 325 and 326 of the Indian constitution. The voter turnout on an average at any election turns out to be around 65-68% (a jump from around 50% in initial years). This number is huge in absolute terms but in relative terms a large fraction of population is not using their basic right to choose their representatives.

Impact of low voter turnout

- Lack of accountability of the elected persons
- Money power plays a role to buy votes → Criminalization of politics
- Use of social & religious cleavages to gain votes
- Votes share remain less (~40%) therefore not actual majority

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Compulsory voting – A solution:

Arguments for

* It will increase the votes polled
* If NOTA gets more vote → parties feel responsible to nominate a better candidate
* Accountability of MPs and MLAs are they are answerable to more people
* Ensures diversity is maintained – no use of social cleavages
  ↳ Promoting communal harmony

Arguments against

* This can promote uninterested votings ~~and~~ as people will select anyone
  ↳ Mostly the chance of first person in the ballot to win
* Against the Right to be silence under Article-19
* NOTA is not of any value → thus people will be forced to blindly vote.

Thus compulsory voting is not a solution but awareness, people participation, electoral reforms are what is needed to strengthen democracy. The first step is to strengthen the Election Commission in this regards

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8. Setting up of an Open Government Data (OGD) Platform can potentially be a game-changer for transparency and accountability. Analyse. Also, identify the challenges that remain in translating this potential into reality.
(150 words) 10

ओपन गवर्नमेंट डेटा (OGD) प्लेटफ़ॉर्म की स्थापना संभवतः पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही के लिए गेम-चेंजर हो सकती है। विश्लेषण कीजिए। साथ ही, इस संभाव्यता को वास्तविकता में परिणत करने के समक्ष विद्यमान चुनौतियों की पहचान कीजिए।

Open government data platform is in the steps towards promoting transparency, right to information etc which has been a motto of the recent government.

Benefits of OGD platform:

1) One stop solution of all the information queries.
↳ It will be simple, quick and accessible to even the person who has less resources to access.

2) It will also save time as the RTI activists has to wait for long to get the information.

3) Maintainence of data and records thus internally helping the organisation.

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4) Integration and cooperation
5) Citizen empowerment

Thus OGD will increase the transparency and will help in better accountability and also reduce the nexus between various wrong elements.

However any such big ticket reforms is faced with certain challenges as follows:

→ No proper data records are kept by the departments
→ Not every information can be digitally available
→ Lack of infrastructure (ICT) and funds
→ Resistance by the departments to provide the information openly.
→ Lack of political will
→ Misuse by the activists who use the data for blackmailing.
→ Also the data privacy issues and role of non-state actors.

<u>Data Protection law</u> must be enacted beforehand.

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9. There have been concerns related to foreign funding to NGOs in India. In this context, examine the current framework regulating the same.

(150 words) 10

भारत में NGOs की विदेशी फंडिंग को लेकर चिंताएँ रही हैं। इस संदर्भ में, इसे विनियमित करने वाले वर्तमान ढांचे का परीक्षण कीजिए।

The foreign funding of the NGOs ~~is~~ comes under the ambit of the Foreign Currency Regulation Act (FCRA).

Concerns related to foreign funding of NGOs

1) The NGOs are exempt from the income tax act and thus they are used for money laundering via the foreign route in some cases.

2) The NGOs have to file the income tax return for the incomes → It is must for the companies receiving the foreign funds.

3) Reports show that many such NGOs have not even reported

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their returns for past 5 years or more.

4) The government has recently sealed the funding of such NGOs.

Current framework:

1) The NGOs receiving foreign funds can only receive funds via a notified bank accounts
2) Filing of the ITR is must
3) They have to report to the bank within 30 days of the receipt of the foreign funds.

Way forward:

The government can setup a regulator to look into the cases of misuse of funds and also regulate the proliferation of name sake NGOs (1 NGO for 400 persons). which can be used for money laundering.

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10. Social audit not only increases accountability and transparency but also facilitates good governance. Discuss. Also, highlight the impediments faced in institutionalizing social audits in India. **(150 words) 10**

सामाजिक अंकेक्षण (सोशल ऑडिट) से न केवल जवाबदेही और पारदर्शिता बढ़ती है, बल्कि यह सुशासन को भी सुविधाजनक बनाता है। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, भारत में सामाजिक अंकेक्षण को संस्थागत बनाने में आने वाली बाधाओं को भी रेखांकित कीजिए।

Social Audit is a process where the people participate in the ~~social~~ assessment of the social, environmental, economic and ethical performance of the projects of the development by the government department.

Social Audit

Improving Transparency

- Availability of data and documents of the official works
- Efficient and Effective working
- Reduces Hoarding
- Training of people to hold Public officials responsible and Accountable

Increasing Accountability

- Participation of citizens
- Grievance Redressal Mechanism
- Reduces Corruption
- Gram Sabhas ↳ 3rd tier of government
- Participative Democracy

↓

GOOD GOVERNANCE

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Challenges facing the Social Audit institutions:

→ Lack of funds provided by the State government in setting up the Social Audit units.
→ Lack of Infrastructure
→ Inadequate staff in the auditing agency with limited resources
→ Resistance by the government departm. to provide information
→ Lack of Maintenance of Data
→ Lack of Political will.

Steps that can be Taken:

1) Legal provisions – mandatory to conduct social audit
2) Institutionalising the Social Audit conducting agency
3) Appelate Tribunals for redressal

Case Study

1) Meghalaya – legally mandated social audit in state govt project
2) Andhra Pradesh (STAAT) → for social audit specialised agency

Along with this people awareness and training of the people in participating in such audits should be done to ensure effective governance.

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11. Highlight the Quasi-Judicial and Advisory functions of the Election Commission of India. Do you think the powers of the Election Commission need a relook in context of the challenges it has faced in recent years? (250 words) 15

भारत निर्वाचन आयोग के अर्द्ध-न्यायिक और परामर्शी प्रकार्यों पर प्रकाश डालिए। क्या आप मानते हैं कि हालिया वर्षों में निर्वाचन आयोग द्वारा सामना की गयी चुनौतियों के संदर्भ में इसकी शक्तियों को पुनरीक्षित करने की आवश्यकता है?

Election Commission of India, as mentioned in Article ~~of~~ 324 of Indian constitution is a bulwark of Indian democracy. It is a permanent constitutional body appointed by the President of India to conduct free and fair elections in the country.

Quasi-Judicial Functions of the EC

- It has the power to decide on the disputes related to allotment of election symbols etc.
- It disqualifies any party on the allegations of bribery, rigging polls and any serious misconduct etc
- It also decides on cancelling the whole elections in case of booth rigging etc.

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Advisory Functions of the EC

- EC advises the president on the matters of the disqualification of members after the election is concluded.
- It also advises the president when to conduct the election after the President's rule i.e whether circumstances exist to conduct elections.
- It also decides on the date of elections and the announcement of such elections.
- Advises the Model Code of Conduct to be followed by the parties.

However the election commission is facing new challenges

New challenges being faced
- Use of money and Muscle power
- Misuse of Social Media
- Big Data Analytics → using the data to manipulate the results
- Flouting the guidelines of MCC

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Need for new reforms:

1) More autonomy and independence to the Election Commission via
   * Ensuring the tenure of other election commissioners
   * Charging the expenses of EC on the consolidating fund of India etc

will give more teeth to the EC (as also recommended by Law commission)

2) Contempt powers to the EC will increase its power to keep a check on the misuse ~~of~~ by parties of MCC

3) Power to derecognise the Political parties will work as a deterrence against the anti social elements

4) Advise of the EC be binding on the presidents on matters of disqualification.

The above reforms will ensure that the Election Commission emerges as a stronger institution and maintains the sanctity of largest democracy in the world.

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12. Increase in the number of judges at the Supreme Court is a welcome step, nonetheless efficient functioning of the judiciary requires broader reforms at all levels of judicial hierarchy. Discuss. (250 words) 15

उच्चतम न्यायालय में न्यायाधीशों की संख्या में वृद्धि एक स्वागत योग्य कदम है, फिर भी न्यायपालिका के प्रभावी कामकाज के लिए न्यायिक पदानुक्रम के सभी स्तरों पर व्यापक सुधार की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

The parliament has increased the number of judges of the Supreme Court to 34 and this is a welcome step keeping in mind the number of pending cases in the highest court i.e around 60,000.

Benefits of increasing strength of the Supreme Court:

1) Reduce the pendancy of cases
↳ Quick and faster delivery of justice

2) It will increase the size of the constitutional benches and thus greater focus on the actual role of supreme court - to decide on the constitutional matters.

3) It is in line with increasing population → Judge - population ratio maintained.

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4) Increase the public trust on the judiciary as larger benches will ensure efficient and effective decision making.

However the actual changes are required in the whole judicial process to make the third arm of the democracy efficient.

Requirement of Broader Reforms like:

1. Lower levels:
   a) Around 2 crore cases are pending at this level → Economic Survey 2019
   b) Huge vacancies are there
   c) Lack of funds to setup fastrack courts, commercial courts, tribunals etc

   Reform required:
   a) All India Judicial service
      → Expertise
      → High recruitment
      → Integration.
   b) Separate fast track courts for offences like commercial etc

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c) To redress the problem of Under Trials → The Under Trials District committees to be strengthened

2) To manage the appeals burden of High Courts
a) Setting up Gram Nayayalas and Lok Adalats for amicable solution.
b) Alternative dispute resolution
c) e-courts → ICT changes
d) Increasing the advocate-population ratio.

3) Conscious use of the power of Special Leave Petition of the Supreme Court
4) Restricting the motivated PILs.
5) Strengthening and updating the archaic laws.
6) Tribunals for amicable settlement of disputes involving government.

A strong judicial system will work as a strong arm of democracy and will empower the citizens. Thus reforms at all the levels of judiciary is needed.

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13. Federal tensions in India highlight the need for reforming the Seventh Schedule through the addition, removal and appropriate placement of entries. Discuss. (250 words) 15

भारत में संघीय तनाव, प्रविष्टियों को जोड़ने, हटाने और उचित व्यवस्थापन के माध्यम से सातवीं अनुसूची में सुधार की आवश्यकता को रेखांकित करते हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

Federalism is the Basic structure of the Indian constitution was upheld by the Supreme Court in Keshwananda Bharti Case (1973).

However, Indian federation has ~~been~~ overcome many challenges in the recent past and clashes or conflicts continue even today.

Some of the issues of Federal Tensions

1) Role of Governor: As seen in the Arunachal Assembly case and the Delhi Assembly case. There must be a clear delineation of the powers of the Governor → Punchhi Committee recommendations.

2. Water Disputes: It has been a

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dispute since independence and water must be a subject in the concurrent list so that some coordinated regulation can be done

3. Residuary powers of Taxation can be given to the states so that their revenues can be increased and fiscal federalism be upheld

4. Land must be a concurrent subject so that land reforms can take a proper shape and enhance consolidation etc

5. Labour must be a state subject so that case based solutions can be made

6. Power to setup Tribunals must be strengthened for the states to deliver faster justice.

7. Betting and gambling can be included as a matter of state list so that a regulated betting can take place and ↑govt revenue

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8. Environment protection can be included to have a proper emphasis on environmental laws.

Thus to ensure that federation is strengthened, there is a need to update the legislative and executive power sharing between the centre and states as per the exigencies of time.

- With the greater public dissent on laws like Citizenship Amendment Act, Farm laws, there is a need to relook at the balance of powers and make the required changes. As dissent is the inert power of a democracy which can be ~~too~~ accelerated into a faster economic growth with better understanding, better implementation and better allocation.

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14. What do you understand by doctrine of eminent domain? How can it be applied to understand the evolution of right to property under the Indian constitution? (250 words) 15

सर्वोपरि अधिग्रहण-अधिकार के सिद्धांत (doctrine of eminent domain) से आप क्या समझते हैं? भारतीय संविधान के अंतर्गत संपत्ति के अधिकार के विकास को समझने हेतु इसे कैसे लागू किया जा सकता है?

Doctrine of Eminent Domain implies that the state has ultimate control over the resources of the state. This doctrine was implied to resolve the disputes related to the Right To property in the Indian Constitution.

Evolution of Right To Property:

When the constitution was drafted, Right To property was a fundamental right under Article 19(f) and Article 31. However this started clashes in the state and people when the land reforms started and the government went on infrastructure development.

It was challenged in the court as the states put various land acquisition laws under schedule 9

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of the constitution to make it safe from judicial review.

In various cases and amendments the Parliament in 1976 via the 44th Constitutional Amendment Act revoked the Right To property as a constitutional right. It was upheld by the Supreme Court on the basis of Doctrine of Eminent Domain.

And thus now, the Right to property remains as a legal right with only the ordinary remedies and not a ~~constitutional~~ fundamental right with a provision to approach directly the SC under A-32.

The right to property is now protected against the arbitrary Executive action but not against the arbitrary legislative action.

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However the government is mandated to give compensation in case the property is held for the agricultural purposes or of any religious endowment.

The compensation is the one guaranteed or as decided by the Central government as the case justifies.

Thus the doctrine solved the continuing debate of the right of individuals and state.

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15. Explain the structure and function of the National Commission for Backward Classes. What is the significance of recent changes made in its status?
राष्ट्रीय पिछड़ा वर्ग आयोग की संरचना एवं प्रकार्यों का विवरण प्रस्तुत कीजिए। इसकी प्रस्थिति में किए गए हालिया परिवर्तनों का क्या महत्व है? (250 words) 15

The 102nd Constitutional Amendment has given the constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes.

Structure of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC):

1) Chairman
2) Vicechairpersons
3) Three members

} Appointed by the President for a term of 3 years

4) 50% of the members should be from backward classes
5) Chairman → must be OBC caste
6) 1 woman must be included

Functions of the NCBC:

1) It will examine the matters related to Other Backward classes and will give the related directions.
2) It will ~~adv~~ investigate and

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monitor the safeguards provided the backward classes.

3) It will also advise the President on the steps needed for the development and welfare of the backward classes in the country

4) Any such matters referred by the President for adjudication and so on

5) It will have the powers of the Civil Court to summon and call for evidence for any matter of investigation etc.

The President under the powers of Article 340 has constituted this body which will derive its powers ~~under~~ from Article 338B of the constitution. Earlier it was a statutory body responsible for matters of Backward classes under the

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Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Benefits of Constitutional status:

→ More powers and authority for the matters of BCs.

→ Earlier the investigation of the matter of disputes was done by National Commission for Scheduled Castes.

→ It will also have a say in the list of inclusion and exclusion of the OBCs.

→ It will give greater power of grievance redressal.

However only the constitution of commission will not solve the race to bottom of different communities demanding the reservation status. There is a need for social and educational development of the backward classes to give them more agency in the society.

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16. Discuss each adjective attached to the word 'Justice' in the 'Preamble'. Highlight some constitutional and legal steps taken towards each of them in India. (250 words) 15

उद्देशिका' में प्रयुक्त 'न्याय' शब्द से जुड़े प्रत्येक विशेषण की विवेचना कीजिए। भारत में उनमें से प्रत्येक की दिशा में उठाए गए कुछ संवैधानिक और विधिक कदमों को रेखांकित कीजिए।

The Preamble of Indian Constitution secures for the people of its country the Social, Economic and Political Justice.

Social Justice means that every section of the society at any area of the country should have the basic standard of living and the efforts must be made to secure development for the marginalised citizens and sections. This includes better healthcare, better education, better sanitation facilities, housing facilities etc

Constitutional steps taken:

1) Right to Education as added by the 86th Constitutional

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Amendment Act under A-21A of fundamental rights.

2) Reservation for the Economically Weaker Sections ~~and~~

3) Constitutional status to National Commission for Backward Classes

4) Abolition of Untouchability (A17)

Legal Steps:

1) 3% reservation to the People with disabilities

2) Maternity Act for 26 weeks paid maternity leave

3) Transgenders Act etc

Political Justice involves the right to vote and right to be elected and right of representation of the citizens.

Constitution steps:

1) Election Commission of India (A-324)

2) Universal Adult Franchise (A-325)

3) 33% reservation for women in local self government (73rd Constitutional Amendment)

4) SC reservation seats in Parliament

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Legal steps:
1) Representation of people Act for qualification & disqualification of members of the Parliament
2) NOTA option (after PUCL Vs UOI case)

Economic Justice involves equal, equitable and fair distribution of resources of the country.

Constitutional Steps: 1) ~~Prohibition~~ Equal opportunity for employment (Article 16)
2) Fair and equal remuneration to men and women (DPSPs)
3) Right to profession (Article 19)

Legal steps: 1) Equal Remuneration Act
2) Minimum wages Act
3) MGNREGA
4) Prime Minister Employment Guarantee Act

Apart from all this various other schemes of the government have time and again assured the people of India of social, Economic and political justice. Consistent steps should be made to reduce poverty and ↑ sustainability

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17. What are the challenges in conducting free and fair elections in the era of proliferation of social media? In this context, identifying the steps taken by the ECI, suggest further measures. (250 words) 15

सोशल मीडिया के प्रसार के युग में स्वतंत्र और निष्पक्ष चुनाव के संचालन में आने वाली चुनौतियाँ क्या हैं? इस संदर्भ में, ECI द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों की पहचान करते हुए आगे के उपायों को सुझाइए।

Social Media has become a game changer in the election process in todays world. The case of Cambridge Analytica and role of social media in the election of President of United States has made the other nations like India cautious of its misuse.

The data released by a Facebook survey has showed that the ruling party in the recent MP elections has spent only 52 ~~crores~~ lakhs (approx.) on 52 advertisements on its official page. While other pages supporting the party have spent around ~~4000~~ 3 crores on around 4000 advertisements.

This shows the growing use of social media to publicise, advertise

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and campaigning through Third-Party accounts which are not only difficult to trace but also are misused.

The use of privacy data by the political party through the well organised IT teams of the party is also a concern.

This also points to the flouting of the MCC guidelines of stopping the campaign 48 hours before the conclusion of election.

This gives the party with muscle and money power to influence the followers as Election Commission does not have the means, capacity and capability to trace them.

Steps taken by the Election Commission

1) cVigil app to report any action of corruption by the public to the officials.

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2) Voluntary reporting by channels like whats app, Facebook, Twitter to report any fake accounts.

3) Election Commission has directed the parties to restrain from any misconduct by the social media → as model code of conduct

Further measures suggested:

1) More autonomy and powers to the Election commision

2) Inclusion of print media into section 126 of the RPA

3) Technology enhancement via trainings of the officials of the Election Commission

4) Regulatory rules and its compliance by the social media

5) Refraining legally that showing of opinion and exit polls in between 48 hours of election is a punishable offence etc

Thus ECI should also upgrade as per the contemporary developments.

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18. Explain how the linkage between banks, NGOs and SHGs helps in facilitating access to microfinance and contributes to the development of rural areas. (250 words) 15

स्पष्ट कीजिए कि बैंकों, NGOs और SHGs के मध्य संपर्क किस प्रकार सूक्ष्म वित्त तक पहुँच को सुविधाजनक बनाने में सहायता करता है तथा ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों के विकास में योगदान देता है।

NGOs and SHGs have changed the scenario of the rural landscape of India. In the call of Financial Inclusion the NGO-Bank linkage program was started in 1980s.

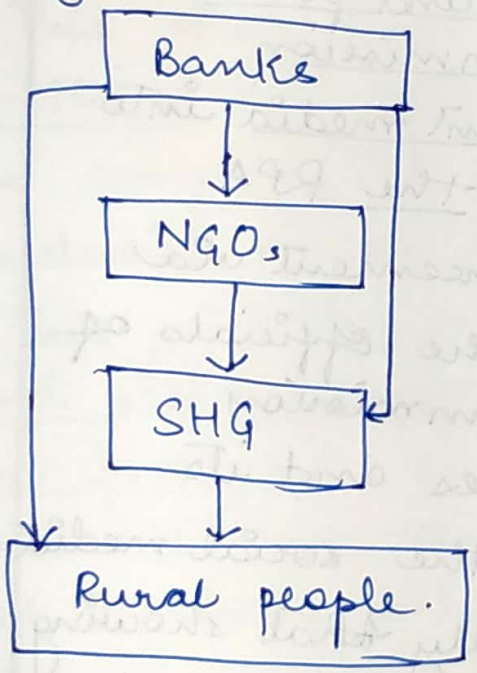

Fig: Fund flow can take place from banks to NGOs To SHGs to public. Or from Banks to SHGs to people Or from Banks directly to people

Benefits of the linkage between Banks → NGOs → SHGs program.

1) Easy access of funds through

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NGOs as this would be less problematic for the banks to lend.

2) SHGs form a rapport with the banks and thus can get loans in multiple of their savings.

3) Individuals need not have the credit rating as they can get loans via SHGs or NGOs.

4) NGOs have the expertise to provide loans and also impart the training in the capacity enhancement of the self help groups.
Eg: Pangi Hills Tribal organic products

Thus rural areas with better access to finance can use their funds in many different ways to increase the development of the rural areas.

1) They can get the working capital

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at cheaper interest rates.

2) Women can start their small startups via the finance provided by the SHGs

3) The savings habit of the rural people increase

4) The incidents of domestic violence has reduced.

5) The infrastructure of the rural areas is improving via the Aajeevika scheme of the SHGs

Thus Bank-NGO-SHG linkage program has worked towards women empowerment, mainstreaming of the marginalized communities and cooperation, cohesion and skill development of the people.

However the rising NPAs of the banks have reduced their lending capacities. Government assurance programs and interest subsidization will incentivise such programs and usher in a 'SAMRIDHH BHARAT'

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19. Identify the different issues associated with the design and implementation of MGNREGA. What reforms have been taken in recent times to address the above-identified issues? (250 words) 15

मनरेगा (MGNREGA) की अभिकल्पना और कार्यान्वयन से जुड़े विभिन्न मुद्दों की पहचान कीजिए। उपर्युक्त चिन्हित समस्याओं का समाधान करने के लिए हाल के दिनों में क्या सुधार किए गए हैं?

MGNREGA is a centrally sponsored Employment guarantee program which ensures 100 days of unskilled work to anyone who wants to work in the rural areas.

In case the department fails to provide the work there is a provision of payment of unemployment allowance for the number of days, the person has remained unemployed.

It was a Targetted program to increase the income levels and reduce the poverty by directly attacking it. Since the start of MGNREGS, India has

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been successful in pulling out around 270 million people out of poverty. The poverty ~~line~~ rate has been reduced from around 38% to 22% in a decade (2005-2015)

It is a rights based program rather than a charity based program. Any failure to provide the wages in a particular time period also involves certain penalties. Also there is a provision of social audit of MGNREGS projects.

Challenges facing the MGNREGS

1) Delay in payment of funds: The workers donot get wages even after months of providing employment.

2) Ghost beneficiaries: which takes out money from the system

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3) No work to be provided for the workers to work on.
4) Only unskilled jobs are there
5) Demand based and not supply based
6) lack of awareness among people

After the COVID pandemic and migrant returnees the demand for MGREGA work is increased but the supply is not commensurate.

Steps Taken:
- ↳ Social Audit to remove the Ghost Beneficiary and efficient utilization of funds.
- ↳ Increasing the wages by ~200 Rupees a day after pandemic
- ↳ Direct Benefit Transfers
- ↳ Faster payment of pending dues etc
- ↳ Increased allocation of funds

Along with the unskilled work, there is a need to focus on rural infrastructure based employment generation which will ↑ income and economic growth as well

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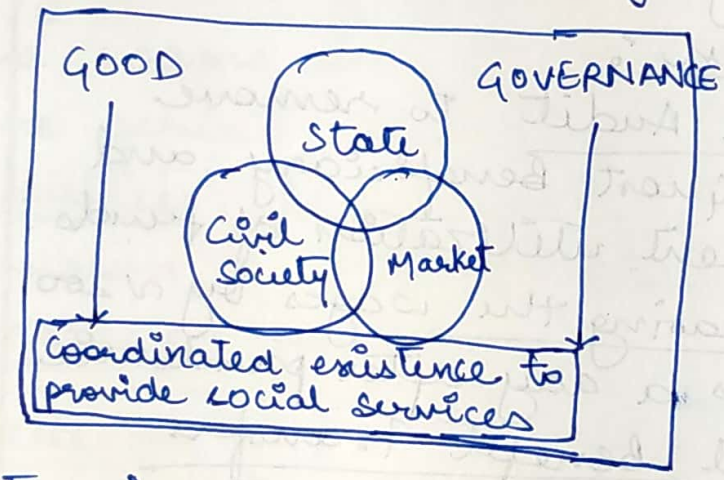
20. A sound legal framework, robust institutional mechanism for establishing rule of law, competent and dedicated workforce and decentralization and delegation are some of the necessary preconditions for good governance. Elaborate. **(250 words) 15**

एक सुदृढ विधिक ढांचा, विधि के शासन को स्थापित करने के लिए मजबूत संस्थागत तंत्र, सक्षम और समर्पित कार्यबल तथा विकेंद्रीकरण एवं प्रत्यायोजन सुशासन हेतु कुछ आवश्यक पूर्वापेक्षाएं हैं। सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए।

Governance is the process where the institutions are created to avail the maximum participation of the civil society (like NGOs), state (like government departments) and markets in the economy.



Determinants of Good governance

1. Sound legal framework where the state makes effort to provide legal redressal and provide efficient public service delivery.

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Examples include
→ New and updated laws (and not the archaic laws)
→ Legal machinery ⇒ autonomous, independent and strong
→ Fast track justice delivery (↓ pendency of cases >3 crore)
→ Reducing the undertrials (60% prisoners are undertrials against the right to freedom)

2. Robust Institutional Mechanism for establishing Rule of law so that Right to equality and Constitutionalism is upheld.
→ Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanism
→ Arbitration, Mediation, Conciliation
→ Judicial Review and the rules made to uphold the basic structure of the constitution
→ Judicial, legal and police reforms (Malimath committee recommendations)

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3. Competent and dedicated workforce
→ Regular on the job training of officials
(only 12% police officers did that)
→ Recruitment of experts
(lateral entry)
→ Specialised cells
(Eg NIA, NSG, ED etc)

4. Decentralization and delegation
→ Strengthening of Gram Sabhas and the local self government
→ More Tax Devolution powers by the state
→ Rationalisation of Centrally sponsored Schemes
→ Direct Benefit transfer etc

Thus all the above things will translate the good governance into effective governance. To facilitate ease of doing business along with Ease of living all the above determinants are an important part.

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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1702)

Name of Candidate	AAKRITI SETHI		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	104195
Center	ONLINE	Date	2/3/2021

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
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6	10	
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9	10	
10	10	
11	15	
12	15	
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16	15	
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18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न–पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

16-B, 2nd Floor, Above National Trust Building, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-110060

Plot No. 857, 1st Floor, Banda Bahadur Marg (Opp Punjab & Sindh Bank), Dr. Mukherjee Nagar Delhi- 110009

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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1. In light of the renewed focus on strategic disinvestment in recent times, examine the rationale behind it and also discuss the concerns raised against it. **(150 words) 10**

हाल के दिनों में रणनीतिक विनिवेश पर नए सिरे से ध्यान केंद्रित किए जाने के आलोक में, इसमें निहित औचित्य का परीक्षण कीजिए तथा साथ ही इसके विरुद्ध व्यक्त चिंताओं की भी विवेचना कीजिए।

After the economic reforms of 1992, disinvestment became the new agenda of the government. As recommended by the Rangarajan committee, the PSU's had to be disinvested 74%.

Strategic disinvestment means along with privatising the stakes/shareholding of the government, the management is also transferred to the private sector.

Importance of disinvestments:

1) Changing role of the government from centralasized imperative planning to the indicative planning

2) PSU's role of "Commanding Heights" has been transformed into

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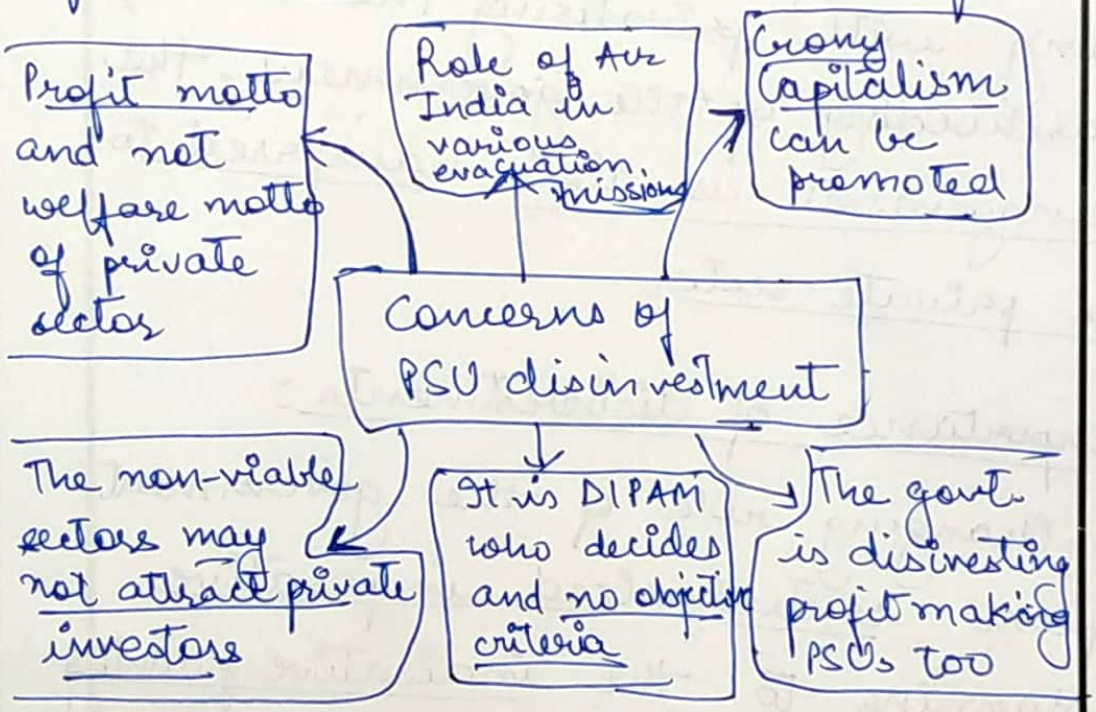
~~No~~ Government has no business to be in business.

3) The efficiency with which the private sector can work eg the case of BALCO.

4) The government can focus on other welfare sectors like health, education, redistribution etc.

5) Loss making PSUs care a fiscal burden on the exchequer.



The patriotism associated with Air India or BSNL is unmatched and no private sector can provide such operations. There is thus a need to rationalize the choices made for disinvestment.

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2. For minimising distribution losses in the power sector, public private partnership (PPP) and input-based distribution franchisee models can provide the solution. Discuss. **(150 words) 10**

विद्युत क्षेत्रक में वितरण घाटा कम करने के लिए, सार्वजनिक निजी भागीदारी (PPP) और आगत-आधारित वितरण फ्रेंचाइजी मॉडल समाधान प्रदान कर सकते हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

The ATD (Transmission and Distribution) losses in India are one of the highest at around 20% as compared to the global average of 8-10%.

UDAY scheme of government of India aimed to reduce the losses of AT&D to 15% by 2020 but could minimise it to only 18% ⇒ still very high.

Public private partnership model:

1) In cases like Delhi, where the DISCOMs are the private operators the reduction in the losses are visible

→ As private discoms are more efficient in operation and maintenance.

→ The quick service provided are appreciable

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- Fare revisions can be quickly made
- Penalty for failure to pay the bills are strict and effective.
- PPP can bridge the gap in the viability of sector.

India being a surplus power country is still facing deficit at the peak hours and demand crunch by the DISCOMs from the power producers due to high losses & NPAs

Input-Based Distribution Franchisee Model:

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3. It is imperative that the present system is re-engineered and a transition towards Outcome Budgeting is made for effective Public Finance Management in India. Discuss. **(150 words) 10**

यह आवश्यक है कि भारत में प्रभावी लोक वित्त प्रबंधन के लिए वर्तमान प्रणाली को पुनर्व्यवस्थित किया जाए और परिणाम बजट की दिशा में संक्रमण किया जाए। चर्चा कीजिए।

Outcome budgeting is being adopted in India since 2005-06 as the different departments are required to submit the outcome budgets for their department.

Outcome budgeting is that each project is evaluated on the basis of outcomes it has generated and the grants further to that project is hence made thereafter.

Benefits of outcome budgeting:

1) The ~~per~~ rationalisation of grants made as any project gets as per its performance.

2) This will fastrack the performance of projects and will reduce the time and cost overruns.

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3) Fiscally effective as that would save large amounts

4) ~~Gov~~ Promotes healthy competition among various departments to get the grants by improving the performance

5) Economic growth will be complimented by socio-economic development.

Need for outcome budgeting:

- → High cost and time overruns
- → Distortive granting of budgets as some schemes/projects never expire
- → FRBM regulation to limit the fiscal deficit to 3%.
- → Limited resources of the govt and the need to focus on the sectors promoting human capital like health and education.

Thus, there is a need to reengineer the budget and make it outcome based to promote fiscal prudence and economic development.

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4. The recent Union Budget has proposed corporatizing at least one major port. In this context, highlight the benefits of a corporatized port, as compared to ports run by public authorities. **(150 words) 10**

हाल ही के केंद्रीय बजट में कम से कम एक प्रमुख पत्तन के निगमीकरण का प्रस्ताव रखा गया है। इस संदर्भ में, सार्वजनिक प्राधिकरणों द्वारा संचालित पत्तनों की तुलना में, निगमीकृत पत्तन के लाभों पर प्रकाश डालिए।

Corporatizing the port gives the port autonomy to work as a corporation, have its own management and policies.

① lack of efficiency due to bureucratic procedures. ② Red Tapism and delayed decision making	Some challenges faced by the public run ports	③ lack of independence to decide on the operational issues. ④ lack of capital and skilled staff

Benefits of a corporatized port

① Can raise their own sharecapital and finances with independence

② Autonomy to recruit the board members → effective, skilled & expert staff.

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③ Efficient working → increase the turnout and footfall on the ports.

④ Better & quicker custom clearances and other documentation
↳ Single window clearance

⑤ Infrastructure development → modernized and tech enabled

⑥ Creation of forward-backward linkages → creation of industrial units near the ports etc.

However roping in the private sector will require an easier norms & policy regulation environment which is flexible but stringent as well, so that independence is not misused.

Cases like JNPT is a profitable example of such corporatization and to facilitate the exports (90% by value is through waterways) this would be a step in the right direction

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5. Discuss why land pooling is being seen as an effective and dependable tool that can replace the traditional land acquisition mechanism.

(150 words) 10

चर्चा कीजिए कि क्यों लैंड पूलिंग को पारंपरिक भूमि अधिग्रहण तंत्र को प्रतिस्थापित कर सकने वाले एक प्रभावी और विश्वसनीय साधन के रूप में देखा जा रहा है।

Land has remain a contentious issue since the Britisher time and various methods to reform the land has remained partially successful since independence.

Land pooling is the method of taking the land from the owner while not affecting their ownership and using the land cooperatively for some specific purpose.

Benefits of land pooling

1) It will reduce the delays that a project face while acquiring land. land acquisition is a major impediment in the infrastructure projects.

2) It will incentivize and facilitate the national projects like National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP), Freight

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corridor of railways and bullet trains.

3) Faster acquisition → ↓ delays → ↓ cost overruns → ↓ cost of production → ↓ inflation with benefit to the public

4) Faster mobility and connectivity will bring in economies and faster ~~of~~ growth

5) Economies of scale and size by consolidation of land.

6) Reduced litigation in courts and ↓ burden on judiciary as owner's title is secured.

In a country like India, where land is more valuable than any other resource, dealing with land is a major task. Thus innovative measures like land pooling, conclusive land titling, cooperatives etc are needed. With good political will this can be done for the economy to grow in leaps and bounds.

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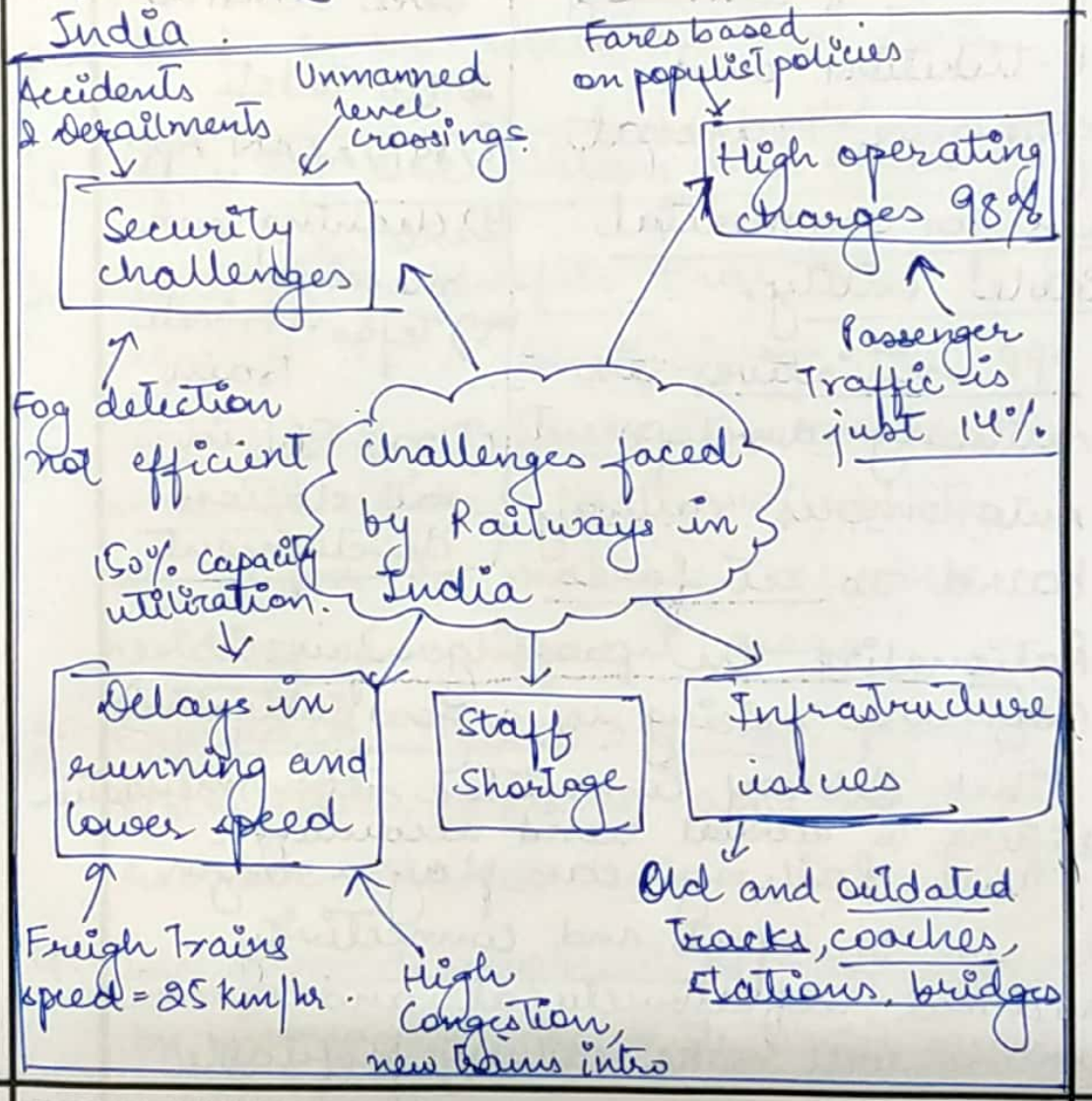
6. Identify the challenges faced by the railways in India. In this context, also discuss the ways in which the Railways can be transformed into an efficient public service provider as well as commercially viable entity.

(150 words) 10

भारत में रेलवे के समक्ष व्याप्त चुनौतियों की पहचान कीजिए। इस संदर्भ में, उन तरीकों की भी विवेचना कीजिए जिनके माध्यम से रेलवे को एक कुशल सार्वजनिक सेवा प्रदाता के साथ-साथ वाणिज्यिक रूप से व्यवहार्य निकाय के रूप में रूपांतरित किया जा सकता है।

India Railways is an important, cheap, affordable, environmentally safe, efficient method of transport of carriage and passengers in India.



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ways in which Railways can be transformed into an efficient Public service provider

1) Improve the infrastructure:
- Introduction of LHB coaches
- Green Toilets
- Cleanliness on call

2) Anil Kakodkar Committee recommendations to be adopted for security

3) E-ticketing and grievance Redressal

ways for commercial viable entity:

1) PPP initiatives in railway development

2) Autonomous railway board to set fares

3) Rationalize the passenger fairs (Dynamic pricing is a good initiative)

4) Bibek Debroy Committee recommendation

5) shifting to accrual based accounting.

Government Initiatives

1) No unmanned level crossing
2) Bio-Toilets
3) NIVARAN APP
4) Cleaning on a message
5) Tejas Private Train
6) 100% FDI in rail station development

Thus, Railways can play a major role in transport and connectivity. structural, infrastructural and economic methods will make railways profitable

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7. Give an account of the benefits that can accrue from the One Nation One Ration Card scheme. In this context, also discuss the challenges that need to be addressed for the scheme to become a success. **(150 words) 10**
एक राष्ट्र एक राशन कार्ड योजना से प्राप्त हो सकने वाले लाभों का विवरण दीजिए। इस संदर्भ में, इस योजना के सफल होने के लिए जिन चुनौतियों का समाधान किए जाने की आवश्यकता है, उनकी भी विवेचना कीजिए।

The COVID Pandemic has highlighted the concern of food security to a large number of migrant community. In the present system, different states have different PDS system with ration cards provided to be used in that state.

Benefits of One Nation One Ration Card

1. Mobility/portability of benefits that are accrued to a beneficiary.
2. Centralized data system which will facilitate the availability of ration to multiple members residing in different areas.
3. Expanded reach of the public distribution scheme and will remove the exclusion error
4. Inclusive development of the people by increasing the nutritional security

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5. Better targetting of the beneficiaries
Eg: Will reduce the ghost beneficiaries

Challenges that needs to be addressed:

1. Distributing food through PDS is a state subject → Implementation issues as different states would have coordination problems.
2. It will result in digitization of data → knowledge deficit and lack of awareness.
3. It will be mandatory to link Aadhar with Ration → Mismatching of Biometrics
   Eg: Case of starving child to death in Jharkhand due to fingerprint mismatch.
4. Data collection and discrimination
5. Different states have different provisions for different categories.

If implemented efficiently, this one nation one ration card scheme is a step towards ease of living in the country and thus reduce Hunger.

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8. Highlighting the need for Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM) in India, discuss the constraints in implementing PIM. **(150 words) 10**
भारत में सहभागी सिंचाई प्रबंधन (PIM) की आवश्यकता को रेखांकित करते हुए, PIM के कार्यान्वयन में आने वाली बाधाओं की विवेचना कीजिए।

50% (almost) of the agricultural area is rainfed irrigation. This region also supports 50% of the labour force and contributes 40% to the agricultural GVA.

However it is also a reason of uncertain agriculture and rise of agrarian distress. This gives the need for Participatory Irrigation Management.

It refers to the participation of the irrigation users in the management of the irrigation systems.

Benefits of PIM

- → Farmers feel empowered and will increase their say.
- → Expanded reach to different farmers.
- → Increasing irrigation investment.

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Constraints in the PIM Implementation

→ 86% farmers are small & marginal farmers with little or no say in the village activities
↳ Dominated by large farmers
→ Financial constraints
→ Lack of farmers cooperation
→ Lack of awareness among the farmers
→ lack of political will etc

To make such a policy successful, there is a need to make the farmers aware, organise them into cooperatives and then utilise them to its maximum. Irrigation availability will make Indian agriculture grow at around 8% enough for doubling the farmers income by 2022.

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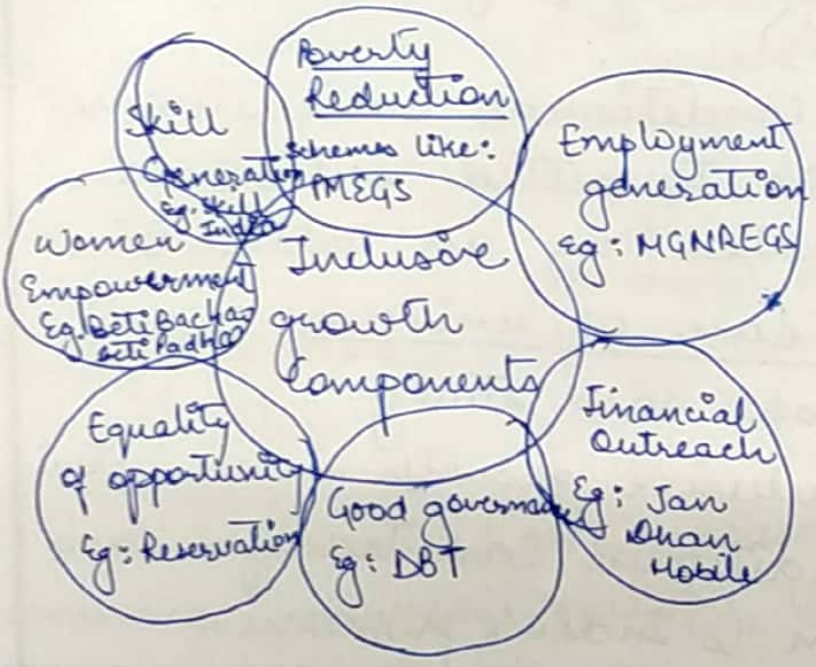
9. Inclusive growth in an economy itself negates the need for a Universal Basic Income. Discuss in the context of India. **(150 words) 10**
किसी अर्थव्यवस्था में समावेशी विकास स्वयं ही सार्वभौमिक मूलभूत आय की आवश्यकता को नकारता है। भारत के संदर्भ में विवेचना कीजिए।

Inclusive growth implies the growth of all sections of the community, all areas of the nation, reducing inequality and accessibility of services by all.

Universal Basic Income is a concept of providing Universal Income to the public unconditionally. This would be a basic income that everyone would get regardless of their income and status.



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The government of India has been focussing on the above dimensions by its various schemes as discussed above. This has led to the poverty reduction by 10% points in 2005-2016, ↑ child sex ratio, bank accounts under Jan Dhan to crores of people, DBT savings of Rs 1.4 lcrore

Despite the above efforts the multidimensional poverty in India is still high, highest number of stunted population (38%), high ratio of maternal mortality rate (126) and high unemployment (highest in 4 decades).

Thus conditional basic income for ~~with~~ the targetted section can be evaluated as an alternative. Brazil's case of universal income is a good case study.

Thus inclusive growth in its intent and Conditional Cash Transfer can be solution to India's problems.

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10. E-commerce holds the potential to revamp agriculture marketing in India in multiple ways. Discuss with suitable examples. **(150 words) 10**
ई-कॉमर्स भारत में अनेक तरीकों से कृषि विपणन में सुधार लाने की क्षमता रखता है। उपयुक्त उदाहरणों के साथ विवेचना कीजिए।

Agricultural marketing in India comes under the domain of the state government through the APMC mandies for the notified commodities.

Some challenges in current marketing structure

- Unawareness of the farmers and their lower share in the price paid by the consumer
- Monopoly of the commission agents
- High fees and charges paid by the farmer
  ↳ low price/value realisation.
- Structural issues of passing of produce through intermediaries
  ↓
  No direct sale to food processing units, contract farmers etc

COVID Pandemic has increased the e-commerce business multiple times

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and thus e-commerce can be a potential method to revamp agri-marketing.

Benefits of e-commerce in Agri Marketing

1. Better price realization as farmers can sell the produce to the buyer paying the higher price → ↑ income of farmers
   Eg: RAKAM portal
2. Direct selling of goods by farmers to buyers thus reducing the intermediaries commission
3. Low post harvest losses as farmers can sell the commodity only when better price is available.
4. Geotagging of the goods, quality certifications can assure the buyer of the produce they are buying.
5. Skill development of farmers.

Thus e-commerce along with agricultural reforms can benefit but it is not a panacea for all the agricultural problems. Better infrastructure, irrigation etc needs to be there.

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11. While some associate increased penetration of technology and industrialization with increase in inequality in India, the reasons for the same lie somewhere else. Discuss. (250 words) 15

यद्यपि कुछ लोग प्रौद्योगिकी और औद्योगीकरण की पैठ में वृद्धि को भारत में असमानता में वृद्धि के साथ संबद्ध करते हैं, तथापि इसके कारण कहीं और निहित हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

With the industrialization in India during the british times (1850s) and the introduction of technology since the 2nd five year plan ⇒ the economic growth has increased but also the inequality in India has increased. The GINI coefficient of India is 0.376 which is lower that many other countries.

Industrialization as the reason of increase in inequality:

1) Industries sprawled in areas either close to the source of raw material or where the cheap labour is available or where the markets are closer.

Oxfam's report

1) India's 1% population has the wealth equal to the bottom 50% population's wealth.

2) India's total billionaires wealth is more than the governments annual budget etc

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Thus this led to regional disparities

2) Industrialization meant jobs for the unskilled labour at cheap wages → exploitation of poor in exchange of higher profits of the capitalists.

3) Shift in the consumption patterns → ↑ inflation → poor becoming more poor.

Better Technology as a reasons for inequality

1) Skilled jobs → only some sections could benefit

2) Lack of awareness and high illiteracy levels.

3) It did not penetrate into the agriculture sector on which majority of the population was dependent.

Other factors that led to inequality

1) Structural factors:

→ Focus on heavy industries rather than the wage goods.

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→ Agriculture was avoided
→ License Raj system which led to monopolies and reduced public sector efficiencies
→ Reservation of products for SSIs did not led to competition and thus SSI remained inefficient
→ Education was made free and compulsory only in 1986.

2) Social factors:
→ 70% population in villages
→ stratification of society on caste basis
→ low social indicators
→ Illiteracy, high maternal mortality rates etc.

3) Economic factors:
→ less fiscal space of the govt to invest in social sector
→ Labour regulation distorted → high unemployment

Thus, where the South East Asian countries grew tremendously, India remained a slow growing country with widening disparities due to multiple reasons.

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12. Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) in India are in need of urgent reforms addressing their regulatory, structural and operational issues. Discuss. (250 words) 15

भारत में शहरी सहकारी बैंकों (UCBs) हेतु उनकी नियामकीय, संरचनात्मक और परिचालन संबंधी समस्याओं को दूर करने वाले तत्काल सुधारों की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Urban cooperative Banks are formed by the cooperative members whose primary activity is saving and lending amongst the members. However their growing size and the recent defaults of the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank has highlighted the issues in the Urban Cooperative Banks.

Regulatory Issues in Urban Coop. Banks

① Dual Regulation by the RBI and the registrar of the Cooperatives Societies.
↳ Regulatory restraint and loopholes in regulations

② Prompt Corrective Action proceedings are not applicable to the UCBs.

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Operating Issues

① Large number of members and generally non-lending to non-members.

② Members self-manage themselves via the board members which may lead to distorted policy making.

③ Single branches → thus restraint in expanding the reach.

Structural issues:

① Limited Capital Base as cannot raise the equity.

Therefore keeping in view the various regulatory, structural and operational issues, there is a need to reform the UCBs.

The RBI recently freezed the withdrawal of money of savers from the PMC bank → led to problems to many savers who had their lifelong

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Savings at stake -

Steps that needs to be taken

1) The large cooperative banks must be given an option to convert into a scheduled commercial bank
   - ↳ Ease the regulatory burden
   - ↳ Easy to raise capital
   - ↳ Adopt different measures to increase income by portfolio managements etc.

[This is also initiated by the govt]

2) Single regulation of RBI only will make the regulations more effective and timely so PMC case need not repete

3) Appointment of the Board of Directors by IBA will be more efficient and in overall interest investors.

With the changing time, there is also a need to update the banking provisions and make it more inclusive and profitable.

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13. Why is participation in Global Value Chains (GVCs) important for India? Highlighting some of the concerns associated with GVCs, suggest some measures for India to reap benefits from participating in them.

(250 words) 15

वैश्विक मूल्य श्रृंखलाओं (GVCs) में भागीदारी भारत के लिए क्यों महत्वपूर्ण है? GVCs से संबद्ध कुछ चिंताओं को रेखांकित करते हुए, भारत के लिए इनमें भागीदारी से लाभ प्राप्त करने के कुछ उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

Global value chains imply the global manufacturing of the products in different countries and each country specialising in that part of the product.

India's manufactured exports have 80% of the components as ~~exp~~ imports from countries like China and 20% ~~as~~ the value addition.

Importance of Global Value Chains for India

1) It will increase the manufacturing base in India and will raise the manufacturing share to 25%, the long sought dream of the government.

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2) Additional employment to a large number of people.
3) Reduce the disguised unemployment in agriculture
4) Promote the inclusive growth as manufacturing is more inclusive
5) Reduce the poverty level in India → ↑ economic growth
6) Socio economic development of India
7) Increased global participation and India as a global leader.
   ↳ Filling the vaccum created by China after the US-China trade war and COVID pandemic

Concerns associated with GVCs

1) It will need skilled workforce
   ↳ Require increase in skilling but India does not have the capacity to skill large people (only 7 million under PMKVY)

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2) Reforms in the tax structure is required → Inverted Tax structure
3) Lack of infrastructure and financial constraints
4) Lack of R&D in india (only 0.6% of GDP is spent on R&D)
5) labour reforms are long pending

Some measures suggested

1) Technological updation by learning from the bilateral foreign agreements.
2) Ease of doing business → ↑ Foreign capital → ↓ financial issues
3) skill development of the people is required → Demographic dividend
4) Private participation in R&D

Government initiatives like Production linked incentive schemes will increase the production of the sector like electronics, pharma, in which India has comparative advantage. Further such steps must be adopted.

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14. What is the significance of state finances for macro-economic stability in India? Also, highlight the issues with states' fiscal management in India. (250 words) 15

भारत में समष्टि-आर्थिक स्थिरता के लिए राज्य वित्त का क्या महत्व है? साथ ही, भारत में राज्यों के राजकोषीय प्रबंधन से संबद्ध मुद्दों को भी रेखांकित कीजिए।

Fiscal federalism in India is upheld by the Indian constitution via the matters listed in the 7th schedule of the constitution.

State finances can be secured through methods such as

(i) Revenue collection through taxes levied & collected by the States.

ii) Transfer by the Centre as share in proceeds of the Centre (recommended by the Finance Commission)

iii) Grants or Aids by the Central govt.

iv) Borrowing within India on the assurance of state Consolidated Fund after the permission of the Centre

v) External Commercial Borrowings.

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Significance of State Finances for Macro-economic stability

1. Majority of the expenditures are with the states and majority of the revenue items are with Centre.
2. Ground level implementation of work is managed by the state government.
3. Transfer of funds for the development of the villages is done by the state government.
4. Social security assistant programs, managing health infrastructure, promoting social capital etc.
5. If the states resources are less, they ask Centre for help which is followed by domino effect by other states.

Issues with the State's fiscal management

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1) They are bound by the restriction of the FRBM act to limit the fiscal deficit to 2%
2) They cannot raise the borrowings outside India
3) Dependend on central grants which are tied under the Centrally sponsored schemes.
4) use items of taxation under state list → GST encroachment on the state's taxation power.

Steps that can be taken

1) Fiscal independence to the States must be promoted
2) Rationalisation of ~~sp~~ Central Sponsored Schemes.
3) Relaxation of the FRBM in case of emergency as just did under the COVID pandemic

Strong fiscal States ensure strong centre and thus ensure the economic stability.

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15. Bring out the need for organizing farmers into structures like producer organizations. Also, identify the challenges that need to be addressed for such initiatives to achieve their desired objectives. **(250 words) 15**

उत्पादक संगठनों जैसी संरचनाओं में किसानों को संगठित करने की आवश्यकता को रेखांकित कीजिए। साथ ही, ऐसी पहलों के वांछित उद्देश्यों को प्राप्त करने के लिए उन चुनौतियों की पहचान कीजिए जिन्हें दूर किए जाने की आवश्यकता है।

The fragmented land holdings and the need of the agriculture to improve the mechanization calls for the consolidation of land via the producer organisations.

Need for organising farmers into FPOs

- Increased Bargaining power of farmers
  - Private Markets
  - Contract farming
  - Better value realisation
- Consolidation of land
  - ↑ Mechanization
  - Diversified crops
  - ↑ Yield
- Economies of scale
  - 86% farmers are small & marginal
  - Improved availability of finance, technology, seeds etc
- Infrastructure Development
  - On gate farm infras
  - Post harvest storage, cold chain/warehouses
  - Certification centres

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Challenges that needs to be addressed

1) Reluctance by the farmers to join any FPO
   - Lack of awareness among the benefits of such organisations
   - Threat of encroachment on their lands

2) → FPOs may require registration, document maintainence or the account audits → difficult for the farmers to understand and implement.

3) Lack of political will to organise the FPOs

4) Non-adoption of conclusive land titles → ownership issues

5) Lack of technology and finance with the FPOs to do any major needful job.

However with agricultural reforms as intended in the AtmaNirbhar

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package or the farm laws that are recently initiated ⇒ the FPOs have become the need of the hour.

Steps that needs to be taken

1) Farmer awareness through panchayats, leaders or influential persons about the benefits of the FPOs.
2) Interest subvention in granting the finances to these organisations
3) Land digitalization → Conclusive Land Titling
4) FPO centres must include the infrastructure for storage, packaging, standardization, certification, labs etc that would facilitate the farmers.

A strong political will and consensus based environment will improve the social trust and succesful implementation of the reforms.

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16. National Infrastructure Pipeline is an ambitious step in the direction of achieving multiple development goals. In this context, discuss its features and significance. (250 words) 15

राष्ट्रीय अवसंरचना पाइपलाइन विविध विकास लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करने की दिशा में एक महत्वाकांक्षी कदम है। इस संदर्भ में, इसकी विशेषताओं और महत्व की विवेचना कीजिए।

The government has recently announced the large investment of around 100 lakh crore in a five year period of 2019 - 2025 in the major infrastructure projects.

Step in the direction of achieving multiple development goals

① Multiple sectors have received the preference under the NIP funds
↳ ↑ Investment in Infrastructure

② Business sentiments will be increased and will promote animal spirits
↳ ↑ FDI in infrastructure

③ Social development infrastructure will also be there as roads have received major share

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↳ ↑ connectivity → seamless movement of goods & passengers → ↑ economic growth

(4) Higher employment will be generated → ripple effect in reducing poverty → doubling of incomes.

(5) logistics will be improved (currently logistics cost = 14% very high)

(6) Will create forward, backward linkages in sectors like cement, steel etc.

Features of NIP

- The participation of centre & states is equal at 39% each and 22% is the private sector
- Infrastructure spending of around ₹100 lakh crore between 2019-2025
- Sectors like Energy (Renewable + Non-Renewable), Roads, Power etc have been included
- Linking the scheme with existing employment schemes like MGNREGS.

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Other initiatives in the Infrastructure sector by the government

1) RERA authority for regulation of Real Estate.
2) Bharatmala and Sagarmala initiatives.
3) Coastal Economic zones
4) Tourism sector → PRASAD scheme, HRIDAY scheme.
5) Smart cities, AMRUT in urban development
6) Rapid Transit systems
7) Setu Bharatam etc

NIP will boost the supply side of infrastructure which will have domino effect in every sector like banking, hospitality, tourism, rural development etc. The private sector must be incentivized to participate in fullest to achieve the maximum benefit out of this project.

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17. The government should prioritize capital investments over subsidies to improve the economic situation of farmers. Discuss. (250 words) 15
सरकार को किसानों की आर्थिक स्थिति में सुधार करने के लिए सब्सिडी की तुलना में पूंजी निवेश को प्राथमिकता देनी चाहिए। चर्चा कीजिए।

Agriculture's share in the Gross Value Added (GVA) has been reduced from 53% in 1950 to 16% now, but the population dependant on agriculture is still high at 42%.

~~Sense~~ Statistics show that 22.5% of the farmers live below the poverty line and earn only Rs 6732 per month. This shows the stark reality of the agriculture sector in India.

In 1970s → economists suggested that only income measures will not reduce poverty and some assurance or support as a form of distributional measures needs to be provided. Thus came the subsidies.

Subsidies as a % of agri GDP.	1960's	now.
	2%	7%

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Fertilizer subsidy (₹ 70,000 crore) and food subsidy form the major portion of the subsidies provided out of the total budget.

	1960's	now
Subsidies	2%	7%
Agri growth	4%	2-3%
Public capital investment	15%	4%

Thus, with the growth in subsidies, the capital investment has reduced as there are left with no resources to fund the capital investment and the agricultural growth has stagnated.

Benefits of Capital Investment

1) It will increase the agricultural infrastructure like Irrigation facilities, cold chain storage, warehouses, on farm infrastructure
↳ ↑ farm productivity

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↳ ↓ post harvest losses

2) capital formation in agriculture will pull out the people dependant on farm activities to more remunerative nonfarm activities
↳ ↓ agri. disguised unemployment
↳ ↑ farmers income.

3) Ashok Dalwai committee also recommended the farm processing for doubling the farmers income

4) ↑ export competitiveness of India's agricultural products → ↑ export earnings

Thus capital investment is beneficial than subsidies as is also emphasized by a world development report. Agriculture support under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat is a step in the right direction, the actual implementation will determine its actual benefits.

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18. Highlighting the potential of micro and small enterprises in the food processing sector, enumerate the challenges that they face. In this regard, discuss the importance of the Scheme for Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (FME). **(250 words) 15**

खाद्य प्रसंस्करण क्षेत्रक में सूक्ष्म और लघु उद्यमों की क्षमता पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, उनके द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली चुनौतियों को सूचीबद्ध कीजिए। इस संबंध में सूक्ष्म खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्यम औपचारीकरण (FME) योजना के महत्व की विवेचना कीजिए।

Food processing is a sunrise sector in India and has a huge potential in terms of exports, agriculture support, employment etc.

The food wastage in India is 16-20% which is huge and is also a reason of agrarian distress in the country.

Role of MSE in food processing sector:

1) Almost ~~[illegible]~~ majority of the food processing units are currently in the micro and small enterprises
   ↳ 45% ⇒ unorganised sector

2) Some self help groups are also involved as MSE in food processing
   Eg: a Himachal SHG producing jams.

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3) Accessability of the people and the ease with which such MSE can be started.

4) Employment opportunities
↳ Non-farm employment
↳ Doubling the farmers income – Ashok Dalwai committee

5) Nutritional security

Challenges faced by such MSE in food processing

1) Financial constraints in getting the funds from the banks
↳ Majority work either on self funding basis by group members or non-institutional finance

2) Infrastructure bottlenecks
→ Lack of Technology
↳ Food wastage

3) Manpower issue as unskilled workforce is majorly available

4) Scale issues : Small size does not facilitate reaping the economies of scale.

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5) Quality standardization and restraints of phytosanitary measures by developed countries
6) Lack of R&D and innovation.

Scheme for formalization of ~~FME~~ micro food enterprises

As earlier stated almost 42% exist in the unorganized sector which makes it difficult to account for them and getting the policies and benefits for them.

Importance of such scheme:

1) Formalization will make the credit availability easier
2) Data management and easy for government to make the targetted policy intervention
3) ~~F~~ Handholding of such enterprises to increase production & thus exports.

Food processing will not only ↑ the FX earnings but will also develop the agriculture sector → more such schemes are required.

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19. Discuss how the idea of Aatmanirbhar Bharat goes beyond the traditional view of self-reliance. **(250 words) 15**
चर्चा कीजिए कि आत्मनिर्भर भारत का विचार किस प्रकार आत्मनिर्भरता के पारंपरिक दृष्टिकोण से परे है।

Atmanirbhar Bharat (or self reliant India) is not about self isolation, it is about developing India as a whole and producing the goods which are globally known, developing value chains etc. (as per the PM Modi)

Features of Atma Nirbhar Bharat

- 7 pillars of ANB
  - System – Technological
  - Infrastructure
  - Demand
  - Economy
    - ↳ Growth in leaps
  - Demography
    - ↳ Vibrant
- Structural Reform in 4 L's
  - Laws
  - Liquidity
  - Land
  - Labour
- Build local to go global
  - Promoting the local brands
- Building Resilience
  - By improving the agriculture
    - ↳ ECA reforms
    - ↳ APMC reforms
- Focus on Global value chains
- Trust building among various stakeholders

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Thus Atmanirbhar seeks to fulfil the goal of structural reforms by changing the pandemic into an opportunity for long term faster growth.

Benefits of Atmanirbhar Bharat:

1) The structural reforms in land, labour, laws is pending from various years → Reason for the slowdown in the pre PANDEMIC year.

2) The judicial reforms will also improve the India's rank in the ease of Doing Business → Enforcing Contracts.

3) It will build the indigenous capabilities → ↑ employment → ↑ income → India reaching 5 trillion dollar economy by 2024.

4) Agricultural reforms will help in doubling the farmers income

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and increase the growth of rural economy.

5) Global value chains will be created
Eg: PLI schemese of government to ↑ manufacturing → ↑ share to 25%.

ANB is integration and not isolation

→ Different from the Mahalanobis model → focussed on import substitution. ANB is focussing on Export promotion

→ ANB is to make India a global hub of manufacturing rather than isolating it through license/permit system.

→ It also is focussing on more regional agreements, FTA promoting Trade

Thus ANB is self reliance to grow India in all the sectors and also imaging India as a brand in the global world rather than an isolated country. Thus it is a pathway to make India a 5 trillion dollar economy by 2024.

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20. The cropping pattern in India is highly skewed towards crops that are water-intensive. In this context, discuss the need to shift the focus from land productivity to irrigation water productivity. **(250 words) 15**

भारत में शस्य प्रारूप जल-गहन फसलों की ओर अत्यधिक झुका हुआ है। इस संदर्भ में, भू उत्पादकता से सिंचाई जल उत्पादकता पर ध्यान-केंद्रण की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा कीजिए।

The Green revolution in India in 1960s made India self sufficient or surplus foodgrains nation but at the same time it also distorted the agro-ecological pattern. PB, HR growing rice and wheat → water intensive crops.

India's Agri Export Basket ⇒ Cereals (Rice, Pulses), Sugarcane, cotton, jute, vegetables and fruits etc

⇓

Water Intensive Crops

⇓

Net Water Exporter

Reasons for skewed distribution of Crops :

1) Green Revolution → Implemented in North India as farmers here could support the technology intensive crops.

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2. Distorted government policies :
MSP in crops (24) but procurement is majorly of rice and wheat.

3. Price volatility in other crops like pulses & fruits → monoculture
↓
Rice and wheat only.

4. Power subsidies → groundwater usage
↓
North India growing cotton
↓
water intensive

Need to shift from land productivity to irrigation water productivity :

1) India has record production of 295mt of food grains ~~which~~ and 3 times the buffer stock
↳ Thus productivity has increased

2) Groundwater is reducing in Punjab at the rate of 1cm per year → various ecological negative impacts.
Also agriculture is the major consumer of groundwater.

3) India will be a water scarce country by 2030 → No water to drink

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4) Growing farmers suicides → as take loans to irrigate the crops which are not ecologically permitted → losses. (Eg: Vidarbha region growing cotton)

5) Climate changes that are followed as paddy fields are a major source of methane release.

Steps that needs to be taken

1) Promoting some minimum support in diversified crops like legumes, etc

2) Managing price volatility through schemes like TOP to total

3) Educating the farmers of the unsustainable practices they are adopting.

4) Rice Intensification system to be promoted

5) Technological intervention like SHC

These govt initiatives like Per Drop More Crop, PM Aasha are steps in right direction. Technological upgradation is the need of the hour.

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